

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, } No. 08 CR 888
Government, }
vs. } Chicago, Illinois
ROD BLAGOJEVICH, } December 6, 2011
Defendant. } 10:28 o'clock a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES B. ZAGEL
SENTENCING

11 | For the Government:

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1 (The following proceedings were had in Room
2 2525, Conference Room, present: The Court,
3 Counsel representing Mr. Blagojevich,
4 Mr. Blagojevich and Mrs. Blagojevich:)

:28AM

5 THE COURT: Hi. Please be seated.

6 A couple of little things.

7 Are we okay on all of the tabs of the
8 recordings of the stuff that we're dealing with?

:28AM

9 MR. SOROSKY: Yes, we worked it out. All
10 resolved.

11 THE COURT: okay. And I did indicate that
12 you can play them.

13 MR. SOROSKY: (Nodding.)

:29AM

14 THE COURT: Also, and this is specifically
15 for you --

16 DEFENDANT BLAGOJEVICH: (Nodding.)

17 THE COURT: There's an issue of your
18 children's privacy --

:29AM

19 DEFENDANT BLAGOJEVICH: Uh-huh.

20 THE COURT: -- which is protected by the law.
21 You, because they're minors, you the right to waive
22 that and I want to know if you're willing to do
23 that.

24 DEFENDANT BLAGOJEVICH: Yes.

:29AM

25 THE COURT: So we're okay on Tab 13, we're

1 okay in tab 15 which are the two that weren't clear
2 to me.

3 We had another issue I have on my list about
4 releasing transcripts, but somebody said that to me
5 and I forgot what they said.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, as far as the
7 calls?

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Just a couple of things.
10 what we did was we took some calls from the chart
11 that we provided to Your Honor, we narrowed it down,
12 and then sort of what the rule we had with the
13 government as far as only playing what
14 Mr. Blagojevich said, we narrowed it down to three
15 tabs.

16 As far as transcripts, we can provide those
17 transcripts to the Court, the government I believe
18 has them already, and those don't have any privacy
19 issues at all. we would like the ability, I think
20 it was mentioned, to vaguely reference any calls
21 that do have privacy issues. we're not going to
22 submit them, you know for public consumption, and I
23 think we had a discussion about Your Honor would
24 accept the calls under seal that we previously tried
25 to admit for sentencing purposes only, I hope that

1 explains it.

2 MR. SCHAR: Yes, Judge, we've gotten a binder
3 which has I think now have been narrowed it down to
4 three tabs and it appears all the privacy concerns
5 are met. If they want to release those transcripts
6 at sentencing, that's fine.

7 THE COURT: Okay. We're fine.

8 MR. SCHAR: Okay.

9 THE COURT: There is one last thing I wanted
10 to raise, and this is not an order it's advise based
11 on long experience. A good deal of the argument for
12 mitigation in this case is the needs of the
13 defendant's children, it's a perfectly legitimate
14 argument to make, but I had on several occasions
15 encountered cases where I learned later that if the
16 full plea for mitigation was not honored, the
17 children had some difficulties because they seemed
18 to be blaming themselves, that somehow in one way or
19 another they were not good enough or wise enough to
20 do this. Given what was reported to me in some of
21 the defendant's pleadings with respect to the impact
22 that this case has already had on the children, I'm
23 assuming that the parents are aware of this and will
24 take appropriate steps, but I wanted to make sure to
25 satisfy myself that this would be done.

:30AM

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:32AM

1 That's it.

2 MR. SCHAR: Thank you, Judge.

3 (Recess.)

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
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1 (The following proceedings were had in Room
2 2525, Ceremonial Courtroom:)

3 THE CLERK: 2009 CR 888, United States versus
4 Rod Blagojevich, sentencing.

:10AM

5 MR. SCHAR: Good morning, Judge.

:11AM

6 Reid Schar, Chris Niewoehner, Carrie Hamilton
7 on behalf of the United States.

:11AM

8 MR. SOROSKY: Your Honor, all counsel of
9 record are present for Mr. Blagojevich, and we would
10 also like to reintroduce to Your Honor Carolyn
11 Gurland, who is a new and most capable lawyer who
12 has been added to our defense team.

:11AM

13 PROBATION OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honor.
14 Kelly Rice on behalf of probation.

:11AM

15 THE COURT: Unless there's some reason to
16 interrupt the customary practice, the first part of
17 this hearing is going to be devoted entirely to
18 determining the correct guideline.

:11AM

19 I have presently before me three proposed
20 guidelines as opposed to the customary two. I
21 believe we will begin with the defense and then the
22 prosecution.

23 You can be seated.

24 MR. SCHAR: Thank you, Judge.

:12AM

25 MS. GURLAND: Good morning, your Honor.

1 Carolyn Gurland on behalf of Rod Blagojevich.

2 :12AM Before I start, Your Honor, is there a
3 particular -- are there particular issues within the
4 outstanding questions that you would like me to
5 focus on or would you like me to just go over the
6 law?

7 :12AM THE COURT: I think it's fairly clear that
8 the principal issue for everybody here is the money
9 issue, and I think that's the one you want to start
10 with.

11 MS. GURLAND: Very well, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: And then I want to you mention
13 everything else you think would support your version
14 of the guidelines.

15 :13AM MS. GURLAND: All right. Thank you, Your
16 Honor.

17 :13AM Starting with the 2C1.1(b)(2)
18 guideline, which I think the government and the
19 defense are all in agreement with the Probation
20 office that this is the appropriate guidelines. And
21 2C1.1(b)(2) guideline counsels that:

22 "... if the value of the payment, the benefit
23 received or to be received in return for the
24 payment, the value of anything obtained or to
25 be obtained by a public official or others

1 acting with a public official or loss to the
2 government from the offense, whichever is
3 greatest, exceeds \$5,000, increased by the
4 number of levels from table 2B1.1."

:13AM In its submission the government calls its
5 guideline calculation of 360 to life an honest and
6 accurate range; however, the government also admits
7 that the calculation is greater than necessary to
8 punish the offense in this case.

:13AM The discrepancy is so extreme, Your Honor,
10 between even what the government asks and the
11 government's guideline calculation that one wonders
12 whether, while honest, the government's legal
13 position is not accurate.

:14AM The legal questions with respect to the
15 benefit amount are two:

:14AM First, under the 2C1.1(b)(2) guideline, was
17 the \$25,000 fund-raising request made of Patrick
18 Magoon and was the \$100,000 fund-raising campaign
19 contribution asked of John Johnston the value of
20 anything obtained or to be obtained by a public
21 official. With respect to that issue, Your Honor,
22 probation found that it was and we disagreed with
23 the Probation Office.

:14AM The second issue which I will treat after

1 that is, under the 2C1.1(b)(2) guideline was the
2 \$1.5 million number that was being discussed with
3 Jackson supporters the value of anything obtained or
4 to be obtained by a public official. On that point,
5 Your Honor, the Probation office found that it was
6 not and we agree with the Probation Office.

7 Starting with the 25,000 and \$100,000
8 fundraising amounts, there are four reasons why the
9 defense believes that these amounts should not be
10 used to enhance the sentence pursuant to
11 2C1.1(b)(2).

12 First, contrary to the suggestion in the
13 government's submissions, the facts of conviction
14 alone do not establish the amount of the value
15 obtained. Even after a conviction, it is the
16 government's burden to establish the amount of what
17 is obtained or to be obtained by a preponderance of
18 the evidence. This principle is cited in the U.S.
19 v. Quinn case, 359 F.3d 666, Fourth Circuit 2004
20 which is cited in the government's brief, and it is
21 also specifically stated that the government bears
22 the burden of establishing the loss calculation with
23 reliable and specific evidence in United States v.
24 Rang, 2011 Westlaw 436 0005 D.C. Circuit 2011.

25 If the government does not meet that burden,

1 it is not that Mr. Blagojevich would not be
2 punished, it is just that the suggested guideline
3 range for punishment would be less severe.

4 In United States v. Schneider, 930 F.2d 555,
5 the Seventh Circuit explains that when the
6 government fails to prove a sentencing factor, in
7 that case economic loss, it is not the defendant
8 would go Scott free:

9 "... it is simply that the guideline awards
10 bonus punishment points for different levels of
11 proven loss beginning with \$2,000. The
12 government did not earn a bonus in this
13 case ..."

14 Second, the facts do not justify the conclusion
15 that either the \$25,000 fundraising request
16 made of Patrick Magoon or the \$100,000 campaign
17 contribution asked of John Johnston were the
18 value of anything obtained or to be obtained.

19 It is not disputed that Mr. Blagojevich
20 discussed asking Mr. Magoon to assist in
21 raising \$25,000, and it is not disputed that
22 this is the figure that was discussed with
23 Mr. Magoon. However, the number was a request
24 for a fundraising contribution, it was not
25 carved in stone.

1 Robert Blago testified at the first trial that
2 in one conversation with Magoon Robert said
3 both "somewhere between 10 and 15" and "we are
4 shooting for 25." Given the realities of
5 fundraising that campaign goals are just hopes
6 and predictions based on prior years, this
7 number is insufficiently precise.

8 Indeed, it bears noting that with respect to
9 Mr. Magoon, he had contributed personally to
10 Friends of Blagojevich and he was at that time
11 serving as Chairman Electric of the Illinois
12 Hospital Association which had contributed
13 nearly \$600,000 to Friends of Blagojevich
14 between 2002 and 2008.

15 It is all the more dangerous Your Honor, to
16 rely on the amount of the request when Magoon,
17 the party to whom the request was made, never
18 agreed to contribute \$25,000, and, in fact,
19 never contributed anything.

20 Regarding the \$100,000, it's not disputed that
21 Monk discussed the \$100,000 figure with
22 Johnston or that this was the amount that
23 appeared on a Friends of Blagojevich
24 fundraising spreadsheet. However, Johnston
25 never testified to any particular amount, and

1 the spreadsheet is nothing more than a list of
2 fundraising goals dating back to early 2008 the
3 time in which the racetrack legislation was not
4 a prospect.

:18AM

5 The spreadsheet has a list of highs and lows,
6 further evidencing that \$100,000 was not a
7 clearly established figure, nor was it an
8 agreed upon figure because, as with Monk,
9 Johnston never agreed to make a contribution in
10 any amount and, in fact, never did.

:18AM

11 Third, although there are no reported cases
12 like this one in which the 2C1.1 guideline is
13 driven by fundraising requests, there is a body
14 of case law that explains the language of the
15 guideline received and to be received.

:19AM

16 And this, Your Honor, I want to acknowledge the
17 background notes that the government points out
18 to the 2C1.1 guideline which talks about
19 attempt. In the government's filing the
20 government charges that we've ignored this
21 background note; however, we embrace the
22 background note because I think it explains the
23 received or to be received language. And that
24 background note says:

:19AM

25 "Offenses involving attempted bribery are

1 frequently not completed because the offenses
2 are reported to the authority or an individual
3 involved in the offense is acting in an
4 undercover capacity. Failure to complete the
5 offense is not less than the defendant's
6 culpability in attempting to use public
7 position for personal gain ..."

8 The case law all falls within the pattern
9 described in the note, which is that these cases
10 involving attempt, the defendant asks for a specific
11 bribe but then the victim either goes to the
12 authorities or the victim is already undercover law
13 enforcement. In all of these cases, unlike here,
14 there is no doubt of the precise amount of an
15 illegal bribe demanded by the defendant.

16 A few examples are in order. In United
17 States v. Mohammed the defendant approached the
18 lawyer in the case and offered to sway the result in
19 exchange for \$2,500. In United States v. Beltran,
20 defendant provided false passports for \$1,000 each.
21 In U.S. v. Falpione, defendant offered an IRS agent
22 \$1,500 to get rid of a friend's tax liability, the
23 individual they approached actually went to law
24 enforcement and subsequently gave them a fake
25 receipt for \$41,000, again as with the other cases

1 it's an attempt but the amount is not speculative.
2 In United States v. Carroll, the defendant was
3 passing out non-immigrant visas charging \$10,000 per
4 visa, at a certain point a replacement came in who
5 was cooperating with the government, the defendant
6 approached that individual and said that he in
7 exchange for 250 more false visas he'd give a
8 million dollars, that benefit amount was never in
9 dispute. And, finally, in United States versus
10 Agostino, the defendant offered a subordinate a
11 \$4,000 cash payment in an envelope to agree to
12 compromise his official duties, the subordinate
13 didn't accept the payment but it was never disputed,
14 it was clearly the case that \$4,000 was the amount.

15 Clearly, Your Honor, the government is
16 correct that the defendant did not actually have to
17 come into possession of a particular amount for that
18 to be the amount of the benefit under the
19 2C1.1(b)(2) guideline, that is not our argument.

20 Our argument is that in order to meet its burden of
21 establishing the upward adjustment by a
22 preponderance of the evidence the government has to
23 show that the figures that they rely upon were
24 specific, reliable figures. That is what was done
25 in all of these reported attempt cases but it was

1 not done in this case.

2 The figures used for Mr. Blagojevich
3 fundraising request or those requests made on his
4 behalf were not specific reliable figures because
5 they were just that, fundraising requests, not
6 illegal bribes and threats on their own.

7 when the Seventh Circuit Hill case, for
8 example, the defendant Liquor Commissioner demanded
9 the cash bribe or he would close the business, he
10 didn't suggest a figure, he demanded a particular
11 amount or else.

12 when in United States v. Marshall, Chicago
13 Heights Mayor Panici awarded a cable TV contract to
14 a franchise owned by a Panici associate for \$35,000.
15 \$35,000 was the number. There were no suggestions
16 or requests. There was a payoff offer to take or to
17 leave. The reason that the benefit numbers are not
18 specific or reliable in Mr. Blagojevich's case is
19 that his were fundraising requests that became
20 illegal only because they were found to have been
21 improperly linked to official action. They were not
22 outright payoff offers nor were they outright
23 threats. Payoffs and threats can't be negotiated,
24 reduced, or in many cases ignored. Requests can.

25 Not only did Mr. Blagojevich receive nothing,

1 there was never a clearly illegal bribe amount that
2 was communicated. Indeed, Magoon and Johnston were
3 asked for fundraising and the goal was given, this
4 cannot be the amount of benefit under 2C1.1(b)(2).

:23AM 5 Fourth, sound policy reasons support refusing
6 to apply enhancements that have a dramatic effect on
7 a sentence without clear evidence of an illicit
8 bribe amount that is because the 2C1.1 guideline
9 focuses on harm. Application note 7 to the
10 guideline provides:

11 ".... for deterrence purposes the punishment
12 should be commensurate with the gain to the
13 payor or the recipient of the bribe, whichever
14 is greater"

:24AM 15 In U.S. v. Mohammed the Seventh Circuit
16 speaks in terms of "the true harm" from the crime.
17 Here, Mr. Blagojevich received nothing and was never
18 going to receive anything. The amounts of money
19 discussed were fundraising requests which would have
20 been perfectly legal without what the jury found to
21 be an improper link to official action. The amount
22 of the fundraising request should not result in a
23 dramatic guideline increase.

24 Regarding the second benefit amount, Your
25 Honor, the \$1.5 million that appeared in the Jackson

:24AM 1 discussions and for which the Probation Office has
2 found that the government has not met its burden of
3 establishing the figure by a preponderance of the
4 evidence. The same legal analysis applies in broad
5 terms as with the \$25,000 amount with a few
6 additions.

:25AM 7 First, although the \$1.5 million were numbers
8 being discussed, the context of the conversations
9 is, as described in the defense filing, that the
10 numbers were being thrown around. It is also has
11 described in the defense filing that at the end of
12 the same conversations, it is clearly stated that
13 Madigan would have been the first option.

:25AM 14 This is significant not to try to refute the
15 conviction as to government suggests, but to point
16 out that the government has not met its burden of
17 establishing this figure as the value of anything
18 received or to be received.

:25AM 19 The government complains about several policy
20 concerns that they would have if it is the case that
21 this sort of preliminary discussions without
22 specificity could be punished in the way that they'd
23 like. The government complains that unless they can
24 punish this preliminary sort of discussion, public
25 officials could seek repeated bribes without

1 consequence. Well, that statement is not accurate,
2 first of all, because 2C1.1(b)(1) actually provides
3 for a two-point guideline increase when more than
4 one bribe is discussed.

5 The second criticism the government has, this
6 one of the PSR, is that the PSR has improperly
7 assumed the concept of intended loss out of the
8 guidelines. But in point of fact, Your Honor,
9 intended loss was never in 2C1.1 guideline; rather,
10 it is a case law that developed first based on 2F1.1
11 which later became 2B1.1 which is the loss
12 guidelines, and that loss, as Your Honor I'm sure is
13 very familiar, is that one takes the greater of
14 actual or intended loss. However, the same loss
15 isn't necessary in 2B1.1 because this guideline
16 provides for four different loss numbers and asks
17 the person applying the guideline to take the
18 highest. So it's not necessary to have actual
19 intended, and, in any event, the 2C1.1 guideline is
20 much harsher than the 2B1.1 guideline.

21 The government criticizes the PSR also for
22 not trying harder to value the potential benefits
23 that Mr. Blagojevich discussed in connection with
24 the Senate seat. According to the government's
25 filing, there was talk of salaries, salaries in

1 exchange for the Senate seat of \$1 million, or maybe
2 \$750,000, maybe \$200,000, or 250, or \$350,000 per
3 year for the change to win in 501(c)(4) options.
4 Any of these figures, the government suggests, could
5 be multiplied by 4 to assume a possible 4-year job.
6 Alternatively, the government suggests one could
7 average out what a Health and Human Services would
8 have been or even what the Senate seat salary would
9 have been if Mr. Blagojevich appointed himself,
10 forgetting of course to allow for the fact that the
11 Senate seat, the appointment of himself, would have
12 actually been legal.

13 Two points about these suggestions. First,
14 Your Honor, they're incorrect under the law. Under
15 United States versus Sapoznik, 161 F.3d 1117,
16 Seventh Circuit 1998, the benefits under the 2C1.1
17 guideline is to be the net benefit, not the gross
18 benefit, such that Mr. Blagojevich's legitimate work
19 in these working positions would have had to be
20 accounted for before the benefit could be
21 calculated.

22 Second, all of the existence of these myriad
23 of valuation options actually suggests is the
24 inherent danger that results from the government's
25 position that discussion of certain numbers in the

1 absence of concrete actions should be able to drive
2 the benefit number. Mr. Blagojevich should be
3 punished for several years more in prison depending
4 upon which of the many discussions one selected as
5 to value of the benefit. That doesn't make sense
6 and it should not be the law, and it's not.

7 Another policy argument the government has is
8 that unless one can punish unspecified numbers, then
9 there will be an issue with defendants because maybe
10 when they talk about things maybe they'll be vague.
11 However, Your Honor, even without any benefit at all
12 being established, the 2C1.1 guideline yields a 24
13 to 30 month sentence which could, no doubt, serve as
14 a valid basis from which the Court could work and
15 apply the 3553 factors. Furthermore, it's
16 reasonable that the guidelines intend to punish
17 specific, direct efforts to obtain an amount certain
18 more severely than loose talk.

19 The government's final policy point, I'm not
20 sure I perfectly understand but I think it goes
21 along the lines that, unless they're able to punish
22 benefits that are less than certain maybe law
23 enforcement won't be motivated in the future to stop
24 a bribe scheme before it comes to fruition in order
25 to be able to punish more corruption. I would

:29AM
1 submit that this factor can't really be taken that
2 seriously. Law enforcement has to be credited with
3 the willingness to do their job. It's protection of
4 the public that is their job, it's not how high of a
5 sentence they might eventually be able to impose on
6 a defendant that should be guiding their actions.

:30AM
7 That concludes the presentation on the 2C1.1
8 guideline, and if Your Honor would like, if you want
9 the government to start or if you want me to go into
10 leader organizer.

11 THE COURT: Go on to leader organizer.

12 MS. GURLAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

:30AM
13 The second substantial disagreement that the
14 defense has with the probation report is the
15 application of the 2B1.1 guideline. This guideline
16 was applied to Mr. Blagojevich based on his position
17 as Governor or as the nominal boss of other
18 participants in the charged conduct.

:30AM
19 These terms and explanations of why it was
20 being used were not actually a point by the defense,
21 rather, they appear in the government's version
22 submitted to probation.

23 As the defense has pointed out, this role is
24 already accounted for in 2C1.1(b)(3), as well as in
25 the use of the harsher 2C1.1 guideline itself.

1 The government argues that in this case
2 Mr. Blagojevich demonstrated a real leadership role,
3 vis-a-vis the other participants in the charged
4 conduct. The defense disagrees.

5 while it is true that as the government
6 points out in their filing Mr. Blagojevich had more
7 to gain than his advisers and that on occasion he
8 asked them to do things for them, like research
9 information, it is false that Mr. Blagojevich
10 exhibited the type of leadership role that 2B1.1
11 guideline seeks to punish.

12 First, as revealed by the tapes,
13 Mr. Blagojevich sought advise and direction from his
14 advisers rather than directing them in many, many
15 cases.

16 In connection the with Magoon contribution,
17 for example, his advisers selected the amount of the
18 fundraising request, as well as the person who would
19 make it. In terms of the Johnston fundraising
20 request, as both Johnston and Monk testified at
21 trial, neither of them were even being honest with
22 Mr. Blagojevich about the real content of their
23 discussions. And it's important to note that Lon
24 Monk had the conflicting role of Blagojevich
25 fundraiser and Johnston lobbyist, and then he

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1 admitted at trial to embellishing, exaggerating, and
2 lying in relating his conversations with his boss,
3 Johnston, to Blagojevich. Other advisers had
4 admitted to running Blagojevich, rather than vice
5 versa.

6 With respect to the Senate appointment
7 discussions, the facts are that Mr. Blagojevich's
8 advisers suggested various potential personal
9 benefit such as Change to Win to Blagojevich. They
10 directed him as to when he should have certain
11 discussions about certain personal benefits and even
12 about the specific words he should use in having
13 those discussions.

14 Indeed, the argument could be made, and was
15 made by the government at the trial, that
16 Mr. Blagojevich did not proceed with any concrete
17 action to make Lisa Madigan option a reality despite
18 all of the seemingly endless discussion on the
19 topic. And while the government would argue that
20 the absence of concrete action was because
21 Mr. Blagojevich wasn't serious about the option, the
22 better argument is the other side. Given the
23 numerous calls on the topic and the consistency with
24 which the Madigan option was discussed throughout
25 the taping it is more plausible to assume that Mr.

1 Blagojevich's lack of leadership ability resulted in
2 the utter stagnation on the Senate appointment that
3 was revealed in the tapes.

4 Under these circumstances, Mr. Blagojevich is
5 less than a threat and less culpable than are
6 individuals who have ironclad forceful influence
7 over the people around them or the ability to take
8 quick and decisive action.

9 Put simply, Your Honor, if Mr. Blagojevich
10 had been the type of defendant to whom the 3b1.1
11 adjustment was intended to apply, there would have
12 been a Senate appointment that he decided upon and
13 one with which his advisers fell in line; that never
14 happened.

15 In these circumstances to punish
16 Mr. Blagojevich for four additional points under the
17 3B1.1 guideline after having already punished him
18 under the 2C1.1(b)(3) guideline for being on a
19 high-level supervisory position would be
20 impermissible double counting.

21 The same applies for the otherwise extensive
22 portion of 3B1.1. The argument argues that because
23 staffers were given some research assignments and
24 because the talk of the possible options about the
25 Senate seat was broad, that the conduct was

1 otherwise extensive, but that is not enough. Under
2 3B1.1(a) refers to extensive criminal activity, not
3 extensive talk.

4 Finally, Your Honor, in response to the
5 government filing of yesterday, in that filing the
6 government criticizes Mr. Blagojevich for citing
7 transcripts that showed that he was not a leader.
8 It is not common, I would submit, to argue for
9 enhanced prison sentence for a defendant based on
10 legal arguments such as defense lawyers submit in
11 their judicial submissions. In that filing, Your
12 Honor, and for the first time, because it didn't --
13 because no transcript quotes appeared in submission
14 to probation and no transcript quotes had ever
15 appeared in the government's sentencing submissions
16 to this Court until yesterday, they came forth with
17 two transcript examples that they say support
18 Mr. Blagojevich being a leader.

19 In one he acts maybe a little bit stronger
20 with Mr. Harris and says but still -- and what he's
21 asking was the question "do I see me," asking Harris
22 for guidance and advise. The second example is the
23 same request for research that's been what the
24 government has been arguing in the other filings
25 with this court.

1 In closing, Your Honor, I submit that to
2 consider in these circumstances that Mr. Blagojevich
3 merits an additional four points under the 3B1.1
4 guideline after already having punished him by
:35AM
5 having applied the public corruption guideline in
6 the first place and by applying the supervisory role
7 four-point adjustment already provided for in that
8 guideline would be unjust and would be inappropriate
9 under the law of the guideline, as well as
:36AM
10 impermissible double counting.

11 Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 Go ahead.

14 MR. SCHAR: Judge, I did not hear anything in
:36AM
15 defense counsel's presentation that was different
16 from the briefs on the issue, and I believe the
17 government has fully briefed the issue of both
18 guideline loss of leadership, and so obviously I
19 will be relying largely on that.

20 In terms of the loss amount in particular,
21 Your Honor, defense counsel continues to focus on
22 the section of 2C1.1 that's really not in issue
23 here, which is the benefits received section.

24 The issue should be focused instead on the
25 section of the guidelines that deals with anything

:37AM 1 to be obtained. And the question obviously at its
2 heart boils down to what was it that the defendant
3 was attempting to obtain and is there a way to put a
4 figure on that particular number. And in this case,
5 by certainly more than a preponderance of the
6 evidence, that figure is very clear.

:37AM 7 In both the Magoon situation, the question
8 was how much money did the defendant want. And just
9 so we're clear, the fact that these were campaign
10 requests and he may not get everything that he
11 requests is not a factor from the government's
12 perspective, Your Honor, because the reality is, the
13 defendant wasn't in the business of returning
14 Monday. He had a number that he wanted. He
15 communicated that number or the number was not in
16 dispute in terms of what was communicated to him.
17 And if it turns out he would have gotten more than
18 that, he would have taken, and if he would have
19 gotten less than that he would have been
20 disappointed. But if Patrick Magoon had showed up
21 with \$25,000 and John Johnston had showed up with
22 \$100,000 he wasn't going to be returning the money.

:38AM 23 And in this case, Judge, the evidence is
24 bountiful that the numbers were very clear as to
25 what he wanted to obtain. As to Mr. Magoon, not

:38AM
1 only was the \$25,000 figure communicated to
2 Mr. Magoon, but of course as the government put into
3 evidence, there was specific discussion, and John
4 Wyma had this conversation, of the \$25,000 figure,
5 in fact it was higher than that at one point, it was
6 \$50,000 but 25,000 is the number for guidelines
7 purposes, and, in fact, Mr. Wyma wrote down at the
8 time of the meeting "\$25,000" on one of the
9 fundraising spreadsheets.

:38AM
10 So there's no issue from the government's
11 perspective, it's certainly not anywhere close to a
12 failure of preponderance as to what the money was,
13 the campaign contribution the defendant wanted.

:38AM
14 In terms of the Johnston, again the number
15 was on the spreadsheet, it was \$100,000. Mr. Monk
16 testified that he was present for a conversation
17 which the defendant communicated the \$100,000
18 request to Mr. John Johnston. There is not a
19 failure of evidence as to how much money was at
20 issue and how much the defendant wanted. He wanted
21 \$100,000, he communicated 100,000. The fact that he
22 may not ultimately have received any of it or was
23 going to receive any of it is not the significant
24 issue in the inquiry, Your Honor, the issue is what
25 is it he wanted to obtain and is it an articulable

:39AM

1 number, here it is.

2 As for the issue of the Senate seat. what
3 basically the defendant is arguing is, and probation
4 has at some level accepted, is it's just too hard to
5 figure out and therefore let's just make it zero.

6 That cannot be, Your Honor, that cannot be the
7 result in situations like this. And we laid out in
8 our papers, obviously, a variety of consequences
9 that could occur if that were the result, but it
10 makes for a basically loophole or safety area for a
11 very clever individual to say, look, we know exactly
12 how much money I'm interested, I'm not get to
13 articulate the number, you just bring it to me in a
14 bag. And apparently despite the fact that this is a
15 clever individual, a clever defendant, and a clever
16 criminal, perhaps more clever than the average, they
17 somehow have zero punishment under the guidelines
18 for that type of situation? It's not a sustainable
19 situation.

20 As to the Senate seat, again, and this is
21 true throughout the guidelines, clearly the issue
22 for Your Honor is to estimate what was the number
23 that was at issue. This is how it's done in loss
24 calculations under 2B1.1, it's how it's done in drug
25 situations under 2D1.1, the question is what is a

1 reasonable estimate of what it is the defendant
2 sought to obtain.

3 As to the Jesse Jackson, Jr. money, the
4 \$1.5 million, there was never a dispute as to the
5 defendant's understanding that \$1.5 million, what
6 was the number that was being offered, not only is
7 it on the tapes repeatedly and we cited that in our
8 papers, beginning with Mr. Greenlee on I believe
9 October 31st, 2008 and ending on the very day he
10 sends his brother, his chief fundraiser, to the
11 person offering the bribe. The \$1.5 million again
12 is articulated that morning, December 4th, 2008.
13 There's never a dispute throughout this entire
14 period that \$1.5 million was what was being offered.
15 The question came down to, did the defendant, from
16 the government's perspective, did the government
17 seek to obtain that money.

18 Again, Judge, this was not a defendant who
19 was in the business of returning campaign
20 contributions if he could've gotten them. And on
21 December 4th of 2008, he sent his brother to the
22 person offering the \$1.5 million to begin the
23 process of obtaining that money.

24 When the defendant testified, there was not a
25 dispute between the defendant and the government

1 that the \$1.5 million was the offer, the dispute was
2 whether or not the defendant sought to obtain the
3 bribe. He claimed he didn't, the jury found
4 otherwise.

:42AM

5 So again, the issue from the government's
6 perspective is fairly concrete, that the number is
7 clear and easily valued. But even if you were to
8 take the \$1.5 million and push that to the side, the
9 failure to attempt to estimate any loss for the
10 Senate seat is, again, inappropriate. We laid out
11 in our papers the variety of jobs that the defendant
12 sought, and you could estimate potential loss on any
13 one of those particular jobs. The fact that net
14 benefit isn't in there, again, doesn't stop an
15 estimation. And in particular, Judge, the change to
16 win job, this was clear on the tapes, that was just
17 going to be made up. There is very clear
18 discussion, they don't need someone to do this,
19 they're just making this job up so the defendant
20 will name the senator. So from that perspective,
21 it's all benefit and unnecessary benefit to the
22 defendant.

:42AM

:43AM

23 I don't think there is any relevance
24 whatsoever to the fact that his request for campaign
25 contributions, that campaign contributions are, to

:43AM

:43AM
1 use the term the defense is using "legal," the issue
2 is not legal or illegal in the sense of what it is
3 that's sought. He wasn't asking for cocaine, we can
4 all agree that he wasn't asking for an inherently
5 illegal product, what he was asking for, though, was
6 done in an illegal way.

:43AM
7 So the entire argument that somehow there's
8 relevance to be gained from the fact that the
9 campaign contribution is in and of itself an illegal
10 item is immaterial to the issue. What he was asking
11 for, what he was committing was crimes to attempt to
12 get that.

:44AM
13 As Your Honor knows having sat through the
14 trial, there were consequences to not meeting the
15 numbers the defendant wanted. There were
16 consequences. The Children's Memorial money was put
17 on hold because the \$25,000 wasn't delivered. He
18 had not signed the racetrack legislation because
19 \$100,000 wasn't delivered.

:44AM
20 So from the government's perspective, again
21 it's laid out further in the brief, the numbers are
22 concrete, they're clear, they're what the defendant
23 wanted to obtain. To focus on whether he could or
24 could not ultimately achieve it is not material to
25 the issues here and we stand by what we wrote in our

1 briefs.

2 As to leader organizer, Judge, again, the
3 defendant seems to want to focus, in part on the
4 part that someone because the defendant was a
5 Governor or the boss that alone -- somehow the
6 government is arguing that that alone is what gets
7 him leader or organizer. That could not be farther
8 from the truth, that is not the premise of the
9 leader, organizer.

10 First taking a step back. The double
11 counting argument fails. What they're arguing, in
12 essence, is this leader or organizer is already
13 accounted for in 2C1.1 because he gets a bump up for
14 being a public official. He gets a bump up for
15 being a public official whether he lead anyone or
16 not. It goes to a different harm, which is the fact
17 a corrupt public official, a high-ranking public
18 official is considered particularly harmful within
19 the guidelines.

20 The same series of facts, and the law is
21 clear on this, the same series of facts is also
22 relevant to a portion of the guidelines that is
23 aimed at a different type of harm, and the different
24 type of harm is being an official, not a public
25 official but anyone who leads and organizes criminal

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1 conduct.

2 And in this case the defendant clearly was a
3 leader and organizer of this criminal conduct. He
4 repeatedly, repeatedly is the one who is leading the
5 conversations. The fact that he was asking people
6 around him how he should participate in a criminal
7 activity doesn't make him any less of a leadership
8 or organizer. He was the only one who stood to
9 benefit, he was the only one who was the one raising
10 these conversations in the first place. No one was
11 running to the defendant from his crew of advisers
12 or people -- "advisers" is even an overstatement,
13 people who worked underneath him, for the most part,
14 and saying here's exactly how you should trade the
15 Senate seat for something of personal benefit to
16 you. He is the one who raised this over and over
17 and over again on the tapes. And to argue as he the
18 does that somehow these people were all using him
19 because of their conflicts in interest, he had the
20 greatest conflict of interest of everyone here, and
21 yet he continued to go down the road where he was
22 trying to get things for himself in exchange for
23 official acts.

24 I heard the defense say that if he had
25 actually been a leader he would have decided upon a

1 senator. He did. Twice. He decided it was going
2 to be Valerie Jarrett if he could get HHS, which he
3 ultimately could not, or if he could get millions of
4 dollars in a 501(c)(4), he made it clear to
5 Mr. Balanoff in a meeting, he made it clear on the
6 tapes, he made it clear with a conversation with
7 Mr. Balanoff on the tapes, he did decide, he just
8 didn't get what he wanted. And again, these are
9 benefits for him.

10 Our papers lay out in some detail, Judge, the
11 number of people that he oversaw in this, it goes
12 through Mr. Harris, Mr. Monk, and a variety of other
13 individuals that are listed in the probation
14 department's report and the government's version.

15 Over and over again he was the one who was directing
16 what was to be done. Research that was to be
17 concluded, decisions that were to be made, all that
18 went to his benefit. And, clearly, there are more
19 than five participants here, particularly when you
20 include him.

21 In terms of the otherwise extensive, Judge,
22 we'll rest on the briefs on that part of the
23 argument. I think it's laid out in some detail.

24 The only other thing I would add is,
25 obviously within the government's objections to the

:48AM 1 PSR which was not previously addressed, there are a
2 variety--and I believe we put a chart in at pages 21
3 and 21--a variety of statements that we take issue
4 at in the PSR and as we're arguing PSR issues now we
5 would ask you to at some point today resolve those
6 objections as well in relation to striking various
7 portions or at least changing the language of
8 various portions for clarification purposes of the
9 PSR.

:48AM 10 MS. GURLAND: May I?

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 MS. GURLAND: Thank you, Your Honor. Very
13 briefly.

:48AM 14 what I heard from the prosecution again and
15 again is that the standard for the amount, the value
16 of anything obtained or to be obtained from a public
17 official, I heard again and again, what did he want
18 to obtain, it's what he wanted to obtain to what he
19 wanted. And I would submit to Your Honor that under
20 the guidelines that's not the measurement of the
21 harm.

:49AM 22 The guideline is trying to measure harm, it's
23 trying to measure conduct, it's trying to have a
24 realistic view of what happened in the case and to
25 square that with the amount of punishment that's

:49AM 1 going to be heaped upon a defendant, and what he
 2 wanted can't be the standard, because otherwise, as
 3 we pointed out in our papers, the loftiness of the
 4 hopes and dreams of a person in some kind of talk
 5 that they had with somebody somewhere is going to be
 6 the amount that's going to result in a dramatic
 7 change, decades more time in prison. That kind of
 8 imprecision is not the law, it's not what the
 9 guideline intended, and it would be enormously
 10 unjust for individuals coming before the Court and
 11 asking for a reasonable application of that
 12 guideline in their case.

:50AM 13 The second point, Your Honor, is, I heard the
 14 prosecution say that probation didn't figure out
 15 anything for the 1.5 million because it was just too
 16 hard to figure out. With all respect to Kelly Rice,
 17 I think she tried pretty hard to figure it out and I
 18 don't think that she concluded that it was simply
 19 too hard. What she actually concluded in the PSR,
 20 Your Honor, is that the government hadn't proven a
 21 \$1.5 million value of something obtained or to be
 22 obtained by a preponderance, that's what she found,
 23 that it was their burden and that they didn't meet
 24 it.

:50AM 25 I heard also the prosecution talk about the

1 fact that if we're not allowed to use some kind of
2 speculation with numbers as in the Jackson case,
3 it's just too risky to the government they won't be
4 able to make the cases. What about the risk to the
:50AM
5 defendant, though, Your Honor? Isn't the risk to
6 the defendant about spending unnecessary decades in
7 prison more important than the risk to the
8 government? Which isn't a risk, anyway, because
9 under the guideline framework even if the guideline
10 was too low in their approximation of the judge,
11 3553 factors provide endless discretion in order to
12 adjust for whatever issues might arise.

13 And, finally, Your Honor, in term of
14 \$1.5 million, I hear the prosecution say that's the
:51AM
15 only amount that's ever discussed. We don't dispute
16 that that is an amount that was discussed. What
17 we're disputing is that the government established
18 that that was a benefit of the value of something
19 that was obtained or to be obtained. And in
20 instances in which there is a conversation about a
21 number, in which those same conversations say that
22 those numbers are being, quote/unquote, "throwing
23 around those numbers," and when in the same
24 conversation it closes with a specific commitment
25 that if the Madigan option was a realistic option,

1 Jackson was off the table. In those circumstances,
2 Your Honor, the defense would submit that it would
3 be profoundly unjust to punish this man for that
4 conduct.

:51AM

5 THE COURT: Is it your position that if it
6 is, in fact, true, and I accept the proposition that
7 the Madigan deal was the only thing on the table, is
8 your position that if I assume that, I am
9 essentially held to agree to it?

:52AM

10 MS. GURLAND: It would be my position, Your
11 Honor, if either you assumed that the Madigan option
12 was still actively being considered and might have
13 happened or if Your Honor concludes that there was
14 not any kind of certainty, so in other words if
15 Madigan was the option or if Mr. Blagojevich
16 appointing himself was the option, or
17 Mr. Blagojevich appointing Gery Chico was the
18 option, or any of those things, if there was
19 uncertainty, I would submit that they have not
20 established that a \$1.5 million figure was the
21 figure of a benefit received or to be received.

:52AM

22 THE COURT: So, for example, if there were 3
23 or 4 packages on the table and one of those packages
24 had "Jackson" on it, the fact that they're on the
25 table and the fact that the defendant would pick any

:53AM

1 one of them, the amount would still not be had?

2 MS. GURLAND: I would say yes to that, Your
3 Honor. I would say yes.

4 And just very briefly on the leader
5 organizer. I hear from the prosecution that because
6 of the fact that Mr. Blagojevich raised over and
7 over again the Senate seat appointment with his
8 advisers and drew them into discussion about it, and
9 because he had the conflict, and that he was trying
10 to help himself, that those are the reasons that he
11 should receive a leader organizer enhancement, but
12 all of those things, Your Honor, I think are reasons
13 that there was a conviction on the various counts
14 but I would respectfully submit that even if those
15 things are accurate and even if we have to accept
16 them as accurate for this proceeding, they don't get
17 to the heart of what we have to determine here. And
18 I think the heart of what Your Honor has to
19 determine, because four points in this place in the
20 guidelines is a dramatic sentencing advisory range
21 increase for Mr. Blagojevich.

22 So the answer is not whether or not the
23 government thinks that the Senate seat conduct was
24 bad. we know they think that, the jury found it,
25 we're not here to argue that, what we're here to

:54AM
1 argue is, is it appropriate after having already
2 made an adjustment for his supervisory role, given
3 that he's the boss of these people, given that he's
4 the Governor, is it appropriate after already giving
5 him four points for that, is it appropriate and is
6 it just to give him four more points for being a
7 leader.

:55AM
8 And I would submit to the Court that in
9 making that decision, you have to think about
10 whether or not this individual demonstrated the kind
11 of ironclad force of personality leadership that the
12 guideline wants to punish because those type of
13 people are more dangerous and more harmful, and our
14 submission is that in the facts of this case that
15 adjustment, that additional four-point adjustment,
16 is not appropriate, Your Honor.

:55AM
17 THE COURT: Let me phrase the government's
18 argument in a different way. What I think the
19 government is saying is, if you look at this as a
20 whole, all of these advisers, some of them who work
21 for him and some of them who don't, are laboring at
22 a variety of suggestions, almost all of which come
23 from your client, and they're laboring there to see
24 that these somehow come to light, but there's no
25 apparent benefit to any of them, all the benefit

1 goes to your client, why isn't he the leader?

2 Maybe you could say, well, he wasn't that
3 focused, he drifted a lot, maybe he wasn't much of
4 an organizer, but he is the one who seems to have
5 pointed the direction to go and why does he not
6 qualify as a leader? The phrase is "leader or
7 organizer."

8 MS. GURLAND: In the law of 3B1.1, as Your
9 Honor is very well aware of, much more so, I'm sure,
10 than I am, there's a whole laundry list of factors
11 that you are to consider in deciding whether or not
12 that adjustment applies. It includes whether or not
13 the benefit goes to a particular individual, but it
14 includes whole slate of other factors having to do
15 with the type of personality and the specific facts
16 of the case in terms of how people were being
17 directed. And --

18 THE COURT: So setting the goal is just a
19 factor?

20 MS. GURLAND: Setting a goal is a factor.
21 And I don't dispute with the Court or with the
22 government that of course that's an important
23 factor, but I think there are other factors. And in
24 instances in which, particularly with the Senate
25 seat discussions, we have as we've laid out in our

1 papers, that individuals are directing
2 Mr. Blagojevich, they're sometimes scripting the
3 language that he uses, he's asking questions,
4 sometimes they override, particularly in the \$25,000
:57AM
5 conduct involving Magoon and the \$100,000 conduct
6 involving Johnston for example, they're calling the
7 shots. In Magoon, the advisers decide the amount,
8 they decide who presents it, with the Johnston
9 conduct it's just a mess because the individual who
:58AM
10 is going to approach Johnston is Johnston's
11 employee, and we get the testimony that on both
12 sides they're lying to Mr. Blagojevich, they're
13 saying that they're having conversations that
14 they're not even having.

15 THE COURT: what I don't understand, the
16 examples you give are examples of his advisers and
17 his brother deciding, for example, that with respect
18 to Magoon it's too much, so they're making a
19 tactical decision, a strategic decision is made by
20 the leader and that's your client. They're trying
21 to get what they can get and their estimate may be
22 lower, I don't see why that makes them independent
23 actors in any real sense of the word.
:58AM

24 You know, you send somebody out for coffee
25 and you get very particular about these various
:59AM

:59AM
1 kinds of coffees, examples of which I won't give you
2 because I don't drink coffee and I don't understand
3 all those words, and somebody comes back and it's
4 not precisely the type you've asked for but it's
5 what they had in stock what he could get, it's still
6 the person who ordered the coffee.

:59AM
7 MS. GURLAND: I agree, Your Honor. In some
8 portions of the facts in this case dealing with
9 Mr. Blagojevich's advisers, it would be as if he
10 asked them to go out and get coffee and they didn't
11 feel like going outside because it was too cold and
12 so they said that the Dunkin Doughnuts was closed
13 and so was Intelligentsia but they were open and
14 they didn't bring back any coffee, I think that
15 there is some instances like that --

:59AM
16 THE COURT: But you think that's the correct
17 analogy?

:59AM
18 MS. GURLAND: I don't know if it's the right
19 analogy, Your Honor, but I do think that the
20 advisers were running Mr. Blagojevich and I think
21 that some of them even told that to the government.

:00AM
22 THE COURT: Actually, one adviser, according
23 to this, said that on occasion they marched him
24 along, once. No reference to this set of
25 circumstances, no questions about what circumstances

1 there might be. There was, in fact, the person who
2 said this on the witness stand, I don't recall
3 cross-examination on this. So what you've got is a
4 series of recordings that are dominated by your
:00AM 5 client, and the possibility that on some issues the
6 staff marched him along. But there's no indication
7 that on this issue they did, this is no indication
8 with Harris how many times this happened. So I
9 don't know how much weight you can attach to that
:00AM 10 one example, particularly when what you've got is
11 one example and one adviser.

12 At any rate, anything else you would like to
13 say?

14 MS. GURLAND: Just in closing, that I believe
:01AM 15 that some of the same information about being the
16 one who is calling the shots being a supervisor is
17 accounted for within 2C1.1 guideline because it does
18 punish the person who is in the supervisory role.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 I think I'm ready to rule on the guideline
21 issue, and then we'll break for a while.

22 If you begin with the general structure of
23 the guidelines, you could read the guidelines, take
24 the position that you find out how much somebody
25 stole, or somebody took, and that's the value you

:02AM
1 attach to it. And some people thought, at least in
2 the beginning, that was the beginning and end of the
3 guideline. But it's not. what somebody attempted
4 to get but didn't is significant. This is why the
5 phrase "intended loss" counts. And it's why if both
6 sides to an agreement in a transaction are guilty of
7 an offense and they have different views of what the
8 deal is going to be worth to them, these two people
9 who might be guilty in other sense will have
10 different guidelines, because one's intent may
11 differ from the others.

:03AM
12 And there has been a theme, and this is an
13 issue in mitigation as opposed to a guideline issue,
14 that the defendant's sentence ought to be lesser
15 because he didn't get any money. Got nothing to put
16 in his pocket. To which the government makes a
17 response that it would have happened if we hadn't
18 intervened. But it doesn't matter, the government
19 doesn't have to establish that.

:04AM
20 The probation officer noted that the lack of
21 an actual exchange of benefit doesn't mean that no
22 levels could be added. The Sentencing Commission
23 notes specifically says this, failure to complete an
24 offense does not necessarily lessen a defendant's
25 culpability.

1 So the probation officer, based on this
2 principle, accorded a benefit value of \$125,000,
3 \$25,000 with respect to Children's Memorial and
4 \$100,000 with respect to the racetrack bill, these
:04AM numbers are supported by the record, and the fact
5 that Magoon might never have paid and Johnston might
6 never have paid does not stop them from being taken
7 into account. And for purposes of this hearing, I
8 am assuming that neither of these two benefits would
9 have been paid. That assumption may be
10 counterfactual. I only assume it because under
11 ordinary circumstances you can't, and we don't know,
12 but I'm assuming it because it simplifies the
13 calculation. In fact, the government of Illinois
14 had a significant power to inflict penalties on
15 those who did not pay, and maybe Johnston and Magoon
16 refused, but there's no way of knowing if for
17 example the government had not been conducting this
18 investigation that finally they may very well have
19 paid on the assumption that it was better to pay
20 than to suffer the consequences. So the two
21 benefits are included despite my assumption that
22 they would not have been paid.

23 Some of the evaluations here with respect to
24 what was done would be extremely difficult to
25 :05AM

1 calculate. The value of an appointment of another
2 person is a very different type of thing to evaluate
3 the value of an appointment to a seat in the United
4 States Senate, and on top of that the value various
5 on the character of the candidate. The exchange
6 rate with respect to the Senate proposals did differ
7 from person to person. For one, the defendant would
8 receive legislative assistance in passing programs
9 into law, for another person the defendant would
10 receive cabinet level or ambassadorial appointment,
11 or some employment for the defendant after he left
12 office. I discount them because, in my view, they
13 fell by the wayside fairly quickly, but they were
14 alive for a while.

15 For a third person the benefit was
16 contributions to the defendant's campaign finance
17 entities. The defendant said he would receive 1 and
18 a half million dollars in exchange for that person's
19 appointment to the Senate. There is evidence that
20 that figure might have been much higher, but the
21 recorded voice of the defendant speaks only of
22 \$1.5 million. It is true, on occasion, the
23 defendant seemed to recognize that maybe that would
24 not occur, but that was the benefit he had in mind.
25 And I don't think it calls for distinguishing

:08AM
1 between hoped for, which is language that the
2 defense used, or believed in. It was a price that
3 he put on it, a price he expected to receive. It
4 was, in a very real sense when he said it, what he
5 regarded as the demand. And if there had been more
6 evidence with respect to this, if his brother had
7 not apparently misunderstood the value of the offer,
8 it might have been more.

:08AM
9 The probation officer believed that there was
10 no evidence that the defendant would receive this
11 money or thought he could receive such a sum. I
12 disagree. The persistence of the defendant in
13 pursuit of benefits wasn't successful but it was
14 pretty relentless. And he spoke of his intent and
15 expectation that he would receive the benefits he
16 wanted, and there is plenty of evidence as to what
17 the Senate seat appointment could mean to him
18 personally.

:09AM
19 The strongest evidence is the defendant's own
20 understanding of the \$1.5 million was on the table
21 if he pointed a certain person to the Senate and
22 that is the figure that should be entered into the
23 calculation of offense levels.

24 Might it be less if he settled for something
25 less? Sure. Might he have gotten more? Sure. But

1 this is precisely the kind of area where you make a
2 reasonable valuation, and the reasonable valuation
3 in this case is based on his words.

4 And, in fact, I don't think that any other
5 deal was on the table. I don't think he could
6 reasonably believe that any other deal was on offer
7 or would be an offer. He hoped there might be
8 another, but the \$1.5 million is the only amount he
9 could've intended to obtain. The probation officer
10 did not accept this because of her conclusion that
11 the defendant had decided not to take it. I think
12 this is incorrect. It is based on the notion that
13 he would not have accepted the bribe because someone
14 else was his first choice. Even if this were true,
15 it does not mean that the defendant had abandoned
16 someone who was a second choice. There are a
17 variety of reasons this is so. The demands for
18 legislative assistance in exchange for the Senate,
19 which were put into evidence at trial, were quite
20 extensive. And he really had no indication at all
21 that the provider of this support would be willing
22 to agree to these demands or even consider them.
23 All the defendant had to go on were offers from
24 intermediaries who would try to broker a deal, but
25 they had no information as to whether their attempts

:09AM

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1 would be successful or whether their attempts even
2 could be made. And there is no indication that any
3 of them had any idea what the contours of that
4 proposal were.

:11AM

5 They did not know whether the proposed
6 political leader would, in fact, provide legislative
7 support had any interest in any deal at all. The
8 1.5 million was very much still on the table, and it
9 was the amount that the defendant expected to obtain
10 if he made the appointment expected by the donors.

:11AM

11 And, in fact, it doesn't actually require that the
12 appointment be made. All it required is that he got
13 the money and he could get the money and not make
14 the appointment, which meant that the fact that he
15 had a first choice and assuming that first choice
16 went through, it doesn't mean he's not going to get
17 the money.

:12AM

18 And, in all honesty, I don't think the
19 evidence supports a conclusion that the proposed
20 choice was in fact his first choice. It actually
21 points in the other direction. It is true that the
22 defendant said so, but his actions don't back up his
23 word. The proposal that he later deemed to be his
24 first choice is treated as an outlier, maybe even a
25 last choice from the very beginning accompanied when

:13AM

1 it was mentioned by extraordinarily unkind words, a
2 euphemism, for both Attorney General Madigan and her
3 father. The idea that it was his first choice was
4 also compromised by a lawyer's comment that, quote,
5 "he was afraid of having the idea ejected."

6 The defendant did testify that the night
7 before he was arrested his thoughts before bed were
8 that tomorrow he would begin, and emphasized the
9 word "begin," his effort to make a deal to appoint
10 Lisa Madigan as the United States Senator. I think
11 this is untrue. I thought it was untrue when he
12 said it and I still think so. I conclude that he
13 seized on this particular detail, particularly at
14 trial, because it was one of the few moves available
15 to him that may well have been legal, that is to say
16 appointing a qualified candidate for the Senate,
17 which the Attorney General of Illinois was, in
18 exchange for legislative votes for programs that
19 benefited the People of the State of Illinois as
20 opposed to putting money in his pocket or his
21 campaign fund.

22 And interestingly enough, the defendant
23 himself offers evidence that the Madigan deal was
24 not his first choice. The defendant cites a
25 conversation between the two of the chief aides in

:14AM
1 which they concluded that the defendant's first
2 choice was appointing himself, not the Madigan deal.
3 And, in fact, the defendant had stated, I believe on
4 the day before his arrest, that he was considering
5 appointing himself. I don't think his assertion
6 that he was committed to his claim first choice is
7 credible.

:15AM
8 And with respect to appointing himself, there
9 were some significant benefits to him for doing
10 this. It was virtually the only thing that could
11 get him away from the resistance of the general
12 assembly on legislative matters and possibly that
13 things could degenerate to impeachment which would
14 be damaging even if it were not successful. He
15 indicated more than once how unhappy he was as
16 Governor, he said living with two more years of
17 legislative stalemate was, and I quote, "gonna be
18 miserable," he would have, if he went to the Senate,
19 almost 2 years to make a new political life and
20 reputation. The only thing wrong with the plan is
21 that senators, in fact, make less money than
22 governor's of Illinois, nor do they have the help
23 and protection of large security details, which
24 makes me think that appointment of himself wasn't
25 his first choice either.

:16AM

1 I can understand that by saying the Madigan
2 deal was his first choice he might have meant that,
3 in some respects, he considered it the best deal,
4 although I don't think this is true. It is improper
:16AM
5 to conclude, as the probation officer did, that the
6 defendant considered it the only deal he would
7 accept, or the most likely deal, or even that it was
8 a deal. The use of the phrase "first choice" by the
9 defendant did not have the meaning or significance
10 that the probation officer assigned to it.

11 I think my conclusion in this is consistent
12 with the verdict of the jury. The Presentence
13 Report is inconsistent with the jury's conclusions
14 as to what have been proved beyond a reasonable
15 doubt, perhaps this is so because the officer was
16 convinced the defendant would, in fact, never
17 appoint the man who supporters were offering
18 campaign contributions, I reiterate maybe this is so
19 but it does not mean that he had resolved not to
20 take the money, just that he resolved not make the
21 appointment.

22 I find that the offense level should be
23 increased not by 10 levels but by 16.

24 while this argument has been made with great
25 vigor on both sides, the fact remains that it is

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1 effectively moot. The government says that the
2 guidelines of 30 years to life is too high, it's
3 inappropriate, it calls for a sentence which under
4 its own terms and under the terms of congressional
5 statute is far more than the defense justifies.

6 what, in fact, the government recommends is a
7 sentence that is essentially within the guideline
8 computed by the Probation office, although on its
9 low end the government's recommendation is lower
10 than the minimum in that guideline, and at the high
11 end of the government's range is a sentence that is
12 a few months longer than the top of that guideline
13 range. But, basically, we are talking about a
14 single guideline range.

15 And it should be noted that I agree with the
16 government, and with the defense for that matter,
17 that the guideline that I believe is correctly
18 computed for this, which is 30 years to life, is
19 simply not appropriate in the context of this case.

20 The more important difference, for practical
21 purposes -- oh, since the government has mentioned
22 it and it's a technical detail, I think the
23 government is correct in its objection to some of
24 the language in the Presentence Investigation
25 Report. The PSR statement includes other statements

1 that should be qualified by stating that the
2 substance of these statements are what "the
3 defendant contends," this is true of all of the
4 examples listed at Pages 21 through 23 of the
:19AM
5 government's sentencing memorandum except the
6 following which I designate by their place in the
7 PSR, those should be stricken in their entirety:
8 Page 11, lines 282 to 286, Page 18, lines 532 to
9 lines 534, Pages 18 lines 543 -- I'm sorry, 532 I
:20AM
10 think through 534; Page 18, lines 543 to 544,
11 Page 19, line 585.

12 The more important debate between the two
13 parties, arguments between the two parties,
14 considering the government's position on its
:20AM
15 recommendation, is the leader organizer, because
16 that's four points that do make a difference, a
17 meaningful difference.

18 The probation officer increased the offense
19 level by four because she found the defendant to
20 have been an organizer and leader of criminal
21 activity involved five or more participants or was
22 otherwise extensive.

23 Considering the number of the governor's
24 staff that were assisting in an effort to find a
25 place for the defendant to land and to secure

1 campaign contributions and the number of outside
2 consultants, his assistance, the defendant called
3 upon, and his own brother, the criminal activity
4 more than meets the standard of extensive criminal
5 activity, let alone the five-person number.

6 The purpose of this widespread effort was to
7 secure personal benefits to the defendant or his
8 spouse, both political and private spheres, all in
9 exchange for promise of official actions for the
10 Governor of Illinois. His role as a leader is
11 clearly shown by his actions and not merely his
12 badge of office.

13 If John Harris were the Governor and the
14 defendant was the Chief of Staff recorded
15 conversations would demonstrate that Rod Blagojevich
16 was the leader and organizer, except of course the
17 benefits would have been flowing to the Chief of
18 Staff as opposed to the Governor.

19 The defense argument in this respect with its
20 fairly new argument that he was an easily
21 manipulated officeholder, it is not consistent with
22 what we heard on the recordings, for from the
23 testimony of the witnesses, or, for that matter,
24 what we heard from the defendant on the witness
25 stand. Indeed, there was testimony that intimated

1 from several of the witnesses that they would rather
2 avoid talking to the Governor as opposed to
3 demanding a chance to whisper into his ear and guide
4 his actions.

:23AM

5 He has said that his staff should have
6 stopped him in one way or another. Frankly, based
7 on those tapes, I don't think he was an easy man to
8 stop. He rattled on for a very long time, was
9 endlessly repetitive, and there is no question that
10 his tone of voice was demanding, he was not a
11 supplicant.

:23AM

12 He did not testify that his ideas and goals
13 were planted in his mind. Those I don't think he
14 could deny, they came from him. I do believe that
15 it is absurd to contend that his staff and advisers
16 would devise criminal schemes whose only aim was to
17 benefit the defendant. The plan to get \$1 million a
18 year from a union did not include a cut for his
19 advisers, nor did any other idea contain a personal
20 reward for key aides. He promised them nothing, he
21 was interested in himself.

:24AM

22 There is no substance to the argument that
23 the defendant is receiving two separate
24 enhancements, one for leadership and the other for
25 holding the office of the Governor, the leader

:24AM

1 organizer enhancement of four levels was
2 appropriately done.

3 with that, we will take a recess of ten
4 minutes and begin again.

5 That session may not last a particularly long
6 time because we will have a short lunch break.

7 Mr. Walker.

8 THE CLERK: All rise.

9 This court is now in recess.

:25AM

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14 (Luncheon recess taken from 11:35 o'clock a.m.
15 to 12:35 o'clock p.m.)

:29AM

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:10AM

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
3 EASTERN DIVISION

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }

5 Government, }

6 vs. }

7 ROD BLAGOJEVICH, }

8 Defendant. })
9
10

11 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
12 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES B. ZAGEL
13 SENTENCING

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23

24

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1 (The following proceedings were had in Room
2 2525, the Ceremonial Courtroom:)

3 THE COURT: Counsel, approach.
4 (Brief pause).

5 THE COURT: The next step is the arguments in
6 mitigation. I've read the briefs, but particularly
7 in this case I don't think the briefs are enough, so
8 I expect you to make argument. I may have some
9 questions with respect to this.

10 One other thing that you may want to know is,
11 I am assuming, although there's no commitment, that
12 the defendant will exercise his right of allocution.
13 It's possible during the course of this that I may
14 ask a question. The one thing the defendant should
15 understand is, during allocution he is under no
16 obligation to answer my question. It also may be
17 that if some question I do put to you, might be
18 better answered by him in allocution, if you tell me
19 that, I'll accept it.

20 With that, we'll begin.

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 If you don't mind, we might be slightly
23 disjointed. We have one witness very brief. She's
24 here we can call her right now.

25 THE COURT: That's fine.

Monroe - direct by Goldstein

67

1 MR. SCHAR: Judge, I just don't think it was
2 put on the record, the defendant is present in court
3 today.

4 THE COURT: what?

5 MR. SCHAR: The defendant is present in
6 court.

7 THE COURT: Yes, the defendant is present.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, we call Dr.
9 Deanna Monroe.

10 where would you like her to sit?

11 THE COURT: Right here (indicating).

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Right here. Okay.

13 THE COURT: If you would face me and raise
14 your right hand.

15 (witness duly sworn.)

16 THE COURT: Please be seated.

17 (witness duly sworn.)

18 DEANNA MONROE, DEFENDANT'S WITNESS, SWORN

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 | BY MR. GOLDSTEIN:

21 q Good morning, doctor.

Please speak into the microphone and

23 introduce yourself to the Court what your name is
24 and what you do for a living.

25 A I'm Dr. Deanna Monroe.

Monroe - direct by Goldstein

68

1 Q As a doctor, who do you treat primarily?

2 A I'm a pediatrician.

3 Q Okay. So you work exclusively with children, is
4 that correct?

:53AM

5 A Exclusively, yes.

6 Q How long have you been a pediatrician?

7 A Post residency training, 14 years.

:53AM

8 Q And do you have a practice in the City of
9 Chicago?

10 A Yes, I do.

11 Q And how long have you had this practice?

12 A I worked for the University of Chicago for
13 2 years and I've been with this practice for
14 12 years.

:53AM

15 Q And in your practice that you currently are
16 engaged in, do you see a wide range of patients as
17 far as insurance coverage?

18 A Yes, I do.

19 Q Do you treat children who have private insurance?

:54AM

20 A Yes.

21 Q And do you treat children who have Medicaid?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Do you also treat children who have what's called
24 All Kids?

:54AM

25 A Yes.

Monroe - direct by Goldstein

69

1 Q Do you sometimes treat children who are paying
2 out of pocket, their parents are paying for the
3 amount out of their pockets?

4 A Yes.

:54AM

5 Q Do you know what All Kids is?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What is All Kids?

8 A All Kids is a program that is provided by the
9 State. And in the past it's been called Illinois
10 Department of Public Aid exclusively, and so
11 patients really had to be relatively poor to qualify
12 for that insurance.

:54AM

13 All Kids has expanded that coverage to allow
14 for people who make low wage to be able to pay a
15 sliding scale premium to still allow their children
16 to be covered by insurance. So it's --

17 Q And did --

18 Go ahead. I'm sorry.

:55AM

19 A So it opens to the possibility of not just the
20 unemployed and poor to allow to cover their
21 children.

22 Q In your experience in your practice, have you
23 seen a certain percentage of children who have the
24 All Kids program?

:55AM

25 A Yes, I have.

Monroe - direct by Goldstein

70

1 Q And presently what percentage of your practice
2 accepts All Kids patients?

3 A Approximately 8 percent of my practice involves
4 All Kids patients.

:55AM

5 Q And that as of the current date, is that correct?

6 A That's current.

:55AM

7 Q Has that number increased decreased in the last
8 year and a half, 2 years?

9 A In the last year and a half I was seeing about 4
10 percent of my practice was All kids, and in the last
11 18 months that number has increased to 8 percent.

:56AM

12 Q What is your understanding of why that number has
13 increased?

14 A Many people have lost their jobs and therefore
15 have lost their private insurance and All kids has
16 been a way for them to still cover their children.

:56AM

17 Q In your practice and what you observed, are there
18 children that are getting All kids that otherwise
19 wouldn't get healthcare coverage?

20 A Correct. Correct.

:56AM

21 Q In other words, the kids that have Medicaid
22 coverage, there are some kids that do not qualify
23 for Medicaid, is that correct?

24 A Correct. When a parent loses their job they can
25 COBRA, or the -- and that's a very high premium, or

1 they -- they lose their coverage, and so these
2 children would be left uncovered unless the parent
3 gets another job and after the waiting period gets
4 afforded insurance.

:56AM

5 Q So COBRA is the temporary insurance that one gets
6 if they lose their job, is that correct?

7 A Yes; and COBRA is very cost-prohibitive.

8 Q And your understanding of All Kids is is All Kids
9 cost-prohibitive?

:57AM

10 A No, it is not.

11 Q And as a pediatrician and in your experience as a
12 pediatrician, do you have an opinion as to the All
13 Kids program?

:57AM

14 A Yes, I think that the goal of pediatrics is to
15 prevent illness, and so our mission is to by doing
16 so we can provide immunizations, we can provide
17 guidance to avoid health issues as an adult. And so
18 if we can increase the number of children that are
19 allowed to be seen, then we can not only prevent
20 immunity outbreaks, we can prevent diabetes,
21 obesity, several health problems that become
22 apparent in their adult life and if we weren't able
23 to see these children then they would be prey to
24 these circumstances of both disease and preventible
25 illness.

:58AM

1 Q So is it fair to say there's a personal interest
2 as the particular child that you treat, as well as a
3 public health concern as well?

4 A Correct. Correct. It's good for the child, it's
:58AM good for the community.

6 Q Okay. And is it fair to say kids that are
7 getting the All Kids insurance program are getting
8 healthcare coverage that otherwise would not without
9 All Kids?

:58AM 10 A Correct.

11 Q And in your experience, how important is
12 pediatric care from doctors to a kid's health?

13 A As I stated, the goal is to immunize, prevent
14 disease, and guide them through their youth to make
15 smart choices to maintain their health so that they
16 don't become an adult health problem. And, you
17 know, it's the start that you wish to continue
18 phenomenon. If you get these children young, you're
19 able to help guide them. Once they've, you know,
20 are older, their health sometimes it's harder to get
21 them back on the right track.

22 Q In your experience, have you treated kids that if
23 you hadn't treated them, if they hadn't seen a
24 doctor, a pediatrician, that there would be an
25 consequence to that child?

:00PM
1 A Yes. I mean, there's a huge push for
2 immunization in a timely fashion because we've seen
3 that when that is interrupted there are health
4 outbreaks of measles and there is a lot of
5 preventible illness that we are able to, you know,
6 stave off and I have seen children succumb to
7 preventible illness.

8 Q And it's been your experience that the All Kids
9 program has helped do that?

:00PM
10 A Correct; it's helped prevent children from
11 succumbing to preventible illness.

12 Q Thank you, Doctor.

13 MR. SCHAR: No questions, Judge.

14 THE COURT: Thank you, Doctor.

:00PM
15 (witness excused.)

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, as far as timing,
17 how much longer would you like to go before your
18 break?

:00PM
19 THE COURT: We will break somewhere between
20 half an hour and 45 minutes. And I'm assuming,
21 based on what you have submitted to me, that this is
22 more or less of a full-scale presentation on
23 mitigation, I am perfectly willing to hear.

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Judge.

25 :00PM
I will start with Ms. Gurland, she will

1 present to you a brief presentation.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 MS. GURLAND: Good morning, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: You can proceed.

:01PM

5 MS. GURLAND: Thank you.

6 In my remarks to the Court regarding
7 mitigation and in particular considering the 3553
8 factors, I will outline a number of factors that are
9 powerful arguments for leniency in sentencing.

:01PM

10 The nature and circumstances of the offense,
11 the history and character of the defendant, concerns
12 of specific deterrence, general deterrence, and the
13 need to avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities
14 among similarly situated defendants all indicate
15 that the advisory sentencing guideline range and the
16 government's range of 15 to 20 years is greater than
17 necessary punishment in the unique facts and
18 circumstances of this case.

:01PM

19 Starting with the nature and circumstances of
20 the offense. It is highly relevant in determining a
21 just and appropriate sentence in this case that Rod
22 Blagojevich received not a penny on the counts of
23 conviction.

:02PM

24 There was no \$25,000 fundraising from Magoon
25 and there was never going to be. Magoon refused to

1 call Robert Blagojevich back. And, in fact, Magoon
2 never even knew that the reimbursement rate had been
3 held because no one called to tell him that or to
4 threaten him with it.

:02PM

5 There was never going to be a \$100,000
6 campaign contribution from Johnston. He testified
7 that he wasn't going to give it.

:02PM

8 The un-convicted conduct bears no better.
9 There was no contribution in connection with the
10 tollway, no contribution in connection with the
11 academy; no contributions. Mr. Blagojevich received
12 nothing in connection with the Senate seat.

:03PM

13 Neither did the counts of conviction result
14 in any financial harm to the State. The end result
15 with respect to Magoon, is that the reimbursement
16 rate increase went into effect to benefit pediatric
17 doctors and Children's Memorial Hospital. The
18 racetrack got their Bill passed and the casinos had
19 to pay them a portion of their profits. Illinois
20 got a senator.

:03PM

21 The government suggests that in making these
22 indisputable points in the defense filings is just
23 another example of the defense not facing up to the
24 convictions in this case, but that is not accurate.

:03PM

25 Mr. Blagojevich has faced up to the fact of

1 the convictions. The fact that the counts of
2 conviction do not involve personal corruption or
3 self-enrichment or the public harm of threatened or
4 promised illegalities is critical mitigation
5 evidence.

6 In order to illustrate this point in the
7 submission to the Probation office, the defense
8 included a summary of every reported Seventh Circuit
9 case discussing the 2C1.1 guideline. The government
10 submission has not suggested that there were any
11 that we missed. This exercise reveals that there
12 has never been a reported case like this one; never.
13 There has never been a 2C1.1 case in which the
14 public official got nothing, in which the thing to
15 be obtained, here campaign contributions or a
16 position, were intrinsically legal goals and in
17 which the benefit exchange, legislation or Senate
18 appointment, by itself, were also appropriate and
19 legal.

20 Summarized in the submission to the probation
21 department are all 17 of the reported Seventh
22 Circuit cases discussing in which the 2C1.1
23 guideline was applied. Of these, there are 17
24 instances of outright bribes to the public official
25 and 12 instances of dire public harm based on the

1 illegal action taken by the public official in
2 exchange for the bribe. The government submission
3 calls these cases inept and the argues that maybe
4 there are no reported cases because the issue is so
5 clear.

6 But, Your Honor, Seventh Circuit cases
7 interpreting the very guideline provision at issue
8 in this case are not inept and the cases were not
9 selected because they had a detailed discussion of
10 2C1.1. Indeed, some of them didn't talk about that
11 guideline at all. The cases were analyzed based on
12 their fact patterns.

13 And what these fact patterns reveal is that
14 there has not been a Seventh Circuit in which a
15 defendant has been punished for request for
16 inherently legal benefits, such as campaign
17 contributions or appointments, in exchange for
18 proper official action such as legislation or
19 appointments. There's no punishment, Your Honor,
20 for the linkage.

21 Since the time of the probation filing the
22 defense has also read every reported case discussing
23 the 2C1 guideline in the context of campaign
24 contributions, and that exercise, your Honor, was
25 not restricted to the Seventh Circuit but was

1 conducted in what people familiar with westlaw would
2 know as an all fed. search, meaning that that it is
3 every federal jurisdiction in United States of
4 America.

:06PM

5 Based on that reading, there are only five
6 reported cases in which campaign contributions are
7 the subject of a 2C1.1 guideline adjustments. In
8 all of these cases, in addition to the campaign
9 contributions, the public officials, who were the
10 defendants, engaged in unmistakable personal
11 corruption. They took cash bribes or other valuable
12 benefits often coupled with official actions, such as
13 supporting illegal gambling operations, things that
14 truly hurt their state.

:06PM

:06PM

15 In United States versus whitfield,
16 590 F.3d 325, Fifth Circuit 2009, for example, a
17 Miami trial attorney arranged for campaign
18 contributions for two judges, but he also lend one
19 of them \$100,000 for a down payment on his home and
20 paid for another's legal bills.

:06PM

:07PM

21 In U.S. v. Zimmerman, 509 F.3d 920, Eighth
22 circuit 2007, a city councilman on the planning
23 board asked a real estate developer, who needed a
24 zoning variance, for money to pay his legal bills as
25 well as demanding campaign contributions which he

1 said the developer should simply put in the name of
2 his cousin.

3 In United States versus Chance 306 F.3d 356,
4 Sixth Circuit 2002, a sheriff demanded campaign
5 contributions but with the understanding that the
6 contributor was a mob figure and the sheriff could
7 go on to use his influence, if elected, to allow the
8 mob to promote its illegal gambling operations.

9 In United States v. Tomblin, 46 F.3d 1369,
10 Fifth Circuit 1995, a businessman approached a
11 senator's assistant and offered him a \$50,000
12 campaign contribution for the senator, but also a
13 trip, and also a 10 percent share in their savings
14 and loan business, all in exchange for getting the
15 senator to bypass approvals from the Federal Home
16 Loan Board which their S & L's could not have passed
17 because it was out of regulation.

18 And the fifth case on the topic, Your Honor,
19 and the final one I will talk about is United States
20 v. Siegelman, 640 F.3d 1159, Eleventh Circuit 2011.
21 This case people might have heard of involves the
22 former governor of Alabama, Siegelman, who
23 approached the Healthsouth Chairman Scrushy and
24 promised him a seat on the Alabama Certificate of
25 Need Review Board which Scrushy could and did use to

1 benefit his company to the detriment of the State of
2 Alabama in exchange for \$500,000 in campaign
3 contributions. The two went through pains to
4 disguise the source of the campaign contributions
5 through a series of sham check transactions. From
6 another witness to Siegelman, the Governor, came a
7 \$9,200 motorcycle and in a manner in which Siegelman
8 tried to hide the payments.

9 of all of these cases, which are five the in
10 which campaign contributions are discussed in the
11 context of the 2C1.1 guideline, only Siegelman
12 involves conviction on the basis of campaign
13 contributions alone.

14 In analyzing the case and making sure that it
15 was appropriate to punish Siegelman based on
16 campaign contributions, the Court quoted United
17 States Supreme Court opinion in McCormick versus
18 United States, 500 US 257, 1991 in which the Supreme
19 Court discussed cases involving only inherently
20 legal activity such as campaign contributions. The
21 Supreme Court opined that in these type of cases the
22 line between legal and illegal activity might not be
23 altogether clear.

24 In analyzing the nature and circumstances of
25 this case, then, it is critical to note that the

:09PM
1 facts of this case are absolutely unique. Based on
2 the reported case law, using the public corruption
3 sentencing guideline, public officials are not
4 tried, convicted, or imprisoned in instances in
5 which the payment to the public official at issue
6 was an intrinsically legal act, such as campaign
7 fundraising or a political appointment and when the
8 action expected from the public official was
9 likewise entirely legal conduct. In other words
10 again, Your Honor, the linkage alone has not been
11 punished.

:10PM
12 The government contends that the case law
13 analysis is ridiculous because there are many
14 instances in which the favor ask from the public
15 official was legal, such as the award of contracts,
16 licenses, permits, or help with legislative
17 approval. The defense is not arguing there could
18 not be a case in which the public received nothing
19 and the action asked of the public official was
20 legal, in fact this is precisely such a case. The
21 defendant is simply pointing out that there are not
22 any such reported cases in the 2C1.1 jurisprudence.
23 :10PM

24 And, furthermore, to the point of the
25 government's mention of the award of contracts as it
comes up in these cases, the fact of the matter is

1 that that most often comes up as an illegal act
2 because it is illegal for a public official to put
3 their fingers on the scale in the bidding process.

4 The government also makes the argument that
5 defense is wrong, that there was no harm. And we're
6 talking now about the financial harm for the
7 particular counts of conviction, because I will
8 address later the general deterrence concerns that
9 the government has. But talking about the offense
10 of conviction and the financial harm as a result,
11 the government argues that the harm was that the
12 reimbursement rate for pediatric doctors and for
13 Children's Memorial Hospital was delayed and that
14 the racetrack legislation was also delayed. One
15 misconception that I think has played people from
16 the beginning of this case is the somehow Rod
17 Blagojevich reached out to hurt Children's Memorial
18 Hospital. That was not the case.

19 The case was that Children's Memorial
20 Hospital and other pediatric doctors had been
21 lobbying for a rate increase for years. They've
22 been courting influential politicians with offers of
23 financial and other support and they had not had any
24 luck. Indeed, Magoon testified that he was trying
25 to convince State police makers to raise Medicaid

:12PM
1 reimbursement rate for 6 to 8 years and that his
2 efforts included contributions to Speaker Madigan, a
3 fundraiser for Senate Leader Cullerton, and an
4 approach by Children's Memorial Hospital lobbyists
5 to numerous State of Illinois staffers, all of these
6 efforts came to not.

:12PM
7 Rod Blagojevich alone made the right
8 decision, that despite the 2008 Illinois budget
9 crisis, the rate increase for pediatric doctors was
10 needed and was good policy. The rate increase was
11 only possible, particularly in times of a budget
12 crisis, because of his efforts.

:12PM
13 That implementation was delayed by
14 approximately four weeks, while regrettable, is not
15 the type of egregious public harm as exists in the
16 other reported cases.

:12PM
17 The racetrack bill, while a desired piece of
18 legislation, was enacted within three weeks to when
19 it was presented to Mr. Blagojevich. Hardly a
20 shocking delay in the realm of politics. That bill
21 involved the extension of a subsidy to racetrack
22 owners to be financed with casino proceeds that
23 would be set to expire in May 2008. Johnston, who
24 was part owner of several racetracks, had conducted
25 a sustained lobbying effort, and, incidentally,

1 Johnston, himself a registered lobbyist, had raised
2 \$300,000 for Mr. Blagojevich during the time that he
3 was Governor.

4 The money that a three-week delay in the
5 passage of the racetrack bill may have cost
6 racetrack owners and benefitted casino owners who
7 did not have to pay them, is also not the type of
8 public harm as exists in reported case law. The
9 same is true with the Senate Seat, Roland Burris and
10 then Mark Kirk have both served honorably.

:13PM

11 The fact is the nature and circumstances of
12 this case are unique and argue for leniency in
13 sentencing. Rod Blagojevich received nothing. He
14 asked for campaign contributions and political
15 appointments, not cash in envelopes or disguised
16 political benefits to enrich himself at the expense
17 of the people of the State, and the official action
18 at issue were all beneficial actions, inarguably,
19 that took effect after a relatively short delay.

:13PM

20 Still on the point, Your Honor, of the nature
21 and circumstances of the offense is a topic that was
22 discussed at length in our submissions and I will
23 not go into it as too much length in this
24 presentation, and that is Mr. Blagojevich's intent.

25 :14PM

In the government's filing --

:14PM
1 THE COURT: Let me stop you. This is just a
2 clarification question. You began by saying that
3 the defendant received no money, had no personal
4 benefit and that also there was no financial harm to
5 the State of Illinois, and this is why this is a
6 clarification question. In the defendant's version
7 of the offense on Page 2, you said this in italics,
8 I'll read it to you.

9 MS. GURLAND: Okay.

:15PM
10 THE COURT: It's at the bottom of the page:
11 "In other words, Mr. Blagojevich profited not at
12 all and Illinois suffered not at all from this
13 conduct ..."

14 And the submission in response to the
15 Presentence Report, an aid at sentencing, your
16 seasoning memorandum, on Page 19, under section
17 Rumman numeral III, the heading says:

18 "No financial benefit - no public harm from
19 counts of conviction ..."

:15PM
20 am I understanding that basically your
21 position is narrower, that you're citing no
22 financial harm, and you're not speaking to any other
23 possible non-financial harm that would occur?

24 MS. GURLAND: That's correct, Your Honor. I
25 think it would be more appropriate.

1 THE COURT: That's fine.

2 MS. GURLAND: Because I think those other
3 concerns, and it's my fault and certainly not of
4 Mr. Blagojevich if I was insufficiently precise, but
5 general deterrence concerns are real and I plan to
6 address them at the end of the presentation.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

8 Go ahead.

9 MS. GURLAND: In the government's filing of
10 yesterday, they argue that Mr. Blagojevich deserves
11 more punishment because his filings reveal a lack of
12 acceptance of responsibility.

13 The defense submission was a legal filing
14 based, in large part, on my selection of tapes
15 coming from the perspective of a relative outsider.
16 I don't believe that that selection of tapes or any
17 of the arguments in this submission should be used
18 against Mr. Blagojevich.

19 Beyond confusing legal filings with direct
20 statements of the defendant's I would submit that
21 this argument by the government is unfair for two
22 main reasons.

23 First, as Your Honor is well aware, there is
24 a guideline adjustment for acceptance of
25 responsibility, 2E1.1, it provides for three point

1 reduction in sentence if the defendant pleads guilty
2 well in advance of trial and a two point reduction
3 if the defendant accepts responsibility but later in
4 the process.

:17PM

5 This two point reduction would result in a
6 68-month reduction off the low end of the guideline
7 sentence under Government's 360 to life guideline
8 position and the advisory guideline position, an
9 eight month off the low end of the defense guideline
10 calculation. In other words, the 3E1.1 adjustment
11 is meant to apply to acceptance of responsibility.

:17PM

12 we have never argued that Mr. Blagojevich is
13 eligible for this benefit. However, the government
14 says not only refuse Mr. Blagojevich this benefit,
15 punish him even more. But here is no basis in the
16 guidelines or in the 3553 framework of adjusting an
17 appropriate sentence for this type of position.

:18PM

18 In effect, the government is saying if you do
19 not accede perfectly to our view of the case, or
20 your lawyers don't, then you should serve more time
21 in prison. The only type of thing this argument
22 reveals is that it's been a long and difficult
23 battle for those who, unlike myself, have been
24 involved in this process from the beginning. That
25 is understandable, but it does not justify an

:18PM

1 excessive prison sentence for Mr. Blagojevich.

2 Second, and as set forth with great
3 specificity in the defense submissions, the
4 information about Mr. Blagojevich's discussions with
5 his advisers was not included to voice blame on
6 anyone else. Those arguments wouldn't excuse
7 Mr. Blagojevich from the charged conduct, nor would
8 it even advance his mitigation arguments. In fact,
9 quite the contrary.

10 The assertion in the defense filings was that
11 Mr. Blagojevich tried to follow the law as he
12 understood it to be. The defense has not argued and
13 does not argue that Mr. Blagojevich was correct in
14 that belief. The jury has concluded differently.
15 However, it is not implausible that Mr. Blagojevich
16 believed that his actions conformed with the law.

17 when a public official is taking flagrant
18 outright bribes in the form of cash, property,
19 loans, vacations, jewelry, meals, or other purely
20 personal benefits, such as the 2C1.1 cases that I
21 read, the lines are 100 percent clear. When a
22 public official is offering to steer a lucrative
23 contract to a supporter and bypass the bidding
24 process or threaten to shut down a business that
25 won't pay them in cash, the lines are 100 percent

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1 clear. But when a public official requesting
2 campaign contributions or other inherently legal
3 benefits, such as political appointments for
4 legislative actions is involved, it can be argued
5 that the law is murky.

6 In United States versus McCormick, 500 U.S.
7 251, 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court held as follows:

8 "... whatever ethical considerations and
9 appearances may indicate, to hold a legislator
10 commit a federal crime of extortion when they
11 act for the benefit of constituents or support
12 legislation furthering the interest of some of
13 their constituents shortly before or after
14 campaign contributions are solicited and
15 received from those beneficiaries, is an
16 unrealistic assessment of what Congress could
17 have meant by making it a crime to obtain
18 property from another with his consent."

19 In United States versus Antico, 275 F.3d 245
20 Third Circuit 2001, in the discussing McCormick, the
21 court specifically stated that the line between
22 legal and illegal acceptance of money in the context
23 of campaign contributions or otherwise legal action
24 was, quote, "nuance," quote "subtle."

25 In addition, as discussed in detail in the

1 sentencing submissions, Mr. Blagojevich had a number
2 of conversations not just with kitchen Cabinet
3 advisers but with nationally prominent politicians.
4 These individuals did not counsel Mr. Blagojevich to
5 ask for personal benefits for the Senate Seat, but
6 they did listen to discussion of precisely such an
7 exchange without ever expressing a negative opinion.
8 Against this landscape, it is not impossible for an
9 individual, particularly a politician whose
10 experience has taught him that political horse
11 trading was the norm, to have held an incorrect
12 understanding of the law. And for all of the
13 reasons set forth in the defense submission, the
14 defense would also submit that Mr. Blagojevich
15 believed at the time of the convicted actions that
16 his conduct was within the bounds of the law. That
17 belief is all the more reasonable when the benefits
18 at issue for Mr. Blagojevich for campaign
19 contributions and possible jobs in positions in
20 which he could work, not cash in envelopes or hidden
21 corrupt personal benefits.

22 Our related point is the issue of perjury.
23 The same belief on Mr. Blagojevich's part also
24 indicates that despite the government's assertions
25 to the contrary, they have not established that

:22PM
1 Mr. Blagojevich committed perjury when he testified
2 in the second trial. The government submission
3 assumes perjury without a discussion. But under the
4 very case cited by the government, United States
5 versus Dunnigan, 507 U.S. 83 1993:

6 ".... a defendant can testify and be convicted
7 after trial and yet not have committed
8 perjury."

9 As an example of how that might occur, the
10 court wrote:

11 "... the defendant may give truthful testimony
12 that a jury finds insufficient to excuse
13 criminal liability or prove lack of intent"

14 It is reasonable to conclude that
15 Mr. Blagojevich's testimony may have fallen into one
16 of these two categories particularly when it's
17 discussed there was a reasonable basis for an
18 innocent but mistaken belief of legality.

19 In the government's filing of yesterday they
20 make the argument that because Mr. Blagojevich's
21 focus at trial was the reality of the Madigan deal,
22 and in the government's assessment,
23 Mr. Blagojevich's focus in the defense submission
24 was his belief and legality of his conduct, that
25 somehow this discrepancy between two legal filings

1 means Mr. Blagojevich perjured himself at trial.
2 This argument is incorrect.

3 First, the defense submission, the one that
4 was filed with the Court, Your Honor, rather than
5 probation, at Pages 8 through 11, 24 through 26, and
6 48 through 49, discusses the Madigan option, stating
7 that it was a primary option, that it was the
8 subject of over 100 calls, and that the option
9 appeared from the first tapes to the last.

10 It is not inconsistent with this position to
11 say that Mr. Blagojevich believed that the Health
12 and Human Services appointment or the 501(c)(4)
13 appointment was legal. It's apples and oranges.
14 Moreover, as the government well knows, on June 1st,
15 2011, Mr. Blagojevich's counsel proposed that
16 Mr. Blagojevich be permitted to testify--and I'm
17 taking this from Page 4 of the June 1st, 2011,
18 transcript:

19 ".... that he honestly believed that what he was
20 doing was legal."

21 And the Court determined to have an offer of
22 proof. In that offer of proof, held not in front of
23 jury but in open court, Mr. Blagojevich testified
24 about his understanding and about all of the things
25 that the government now accuses his lawyers of saying

1 for the first time in the defense submission. And I
2 would draw the Court's attention to the June 1st
3 2011 transcript at Page 8 through 19.

4 Mr. Blagojevich was not permitted to testify to this
5 in the presence of the jury because it was deemed
6 irrelevant to the trial, but this does not make the
7 testimony he was permitted to give perjurious.

8 Turning to the history and characteristics of
9 the defendant himself. Mr. Blagojevich is a kind
10 and compassionate man who is sincere in his desire
11 to help people. He came from a Serbian immigrant
12 family and grew up in the northwest side City of
13 Chicago. His father arrived in the United States
14 age 37 after having spent 4 years in a Nazi of
15 prisoner war camp. The family was hardworking.
16 Mr. Blagojevich's father worked in a tannery, in
17 paper, and pesticides and steel factories, as well
18 as on the Alaskan pipeline. His mother worked at a
19 utensil factory, as a clerical employee, and with
20 the Chicago CTA. They worked hard to provide a home
21 and an education for Rod and his brother Robert.

22 Rod and Robert did their part as well. They
23 worked from the time they were 9 or 10 running a
24 shoe shine business while in grammar school. Rod
25 went on to work as a pizza deliveryman, in a meat

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1 packing plant, and like his dad on the Alaskan
2 pipeline in order to help pay for his education.
3 Mr. Blagojevich did go on to college and then to law
4 school. When he was a young man at the beginning of
5 his legal career he met Patti and they began
6 dating --

7 THE COURT: Stop for a moment. I have a
8 question. Nothing you didn't understand. I want to
9 find it.

:26PM
10 (Brief pause.)

:27PM
11 THE COURT: It's reported, and I really don't
12 understand this, maybe it was an inadvertent
13 statement, in the interview with the probation
14 officer and in one of either your version of the
15 offense or the sentencing memorandum, the phrase
16 that was used and it's put in quotes, meaning the
17 probation officer thought he said these actual
18 words, and so, apparently, whoever wrote the
19 sentencing memorandum, he believes he was a "good
20 Governor" explaining that he "came from nothing."
21 What I saw in this report history is that he came
22 from an immigrant family that was intact, had the
23 usual kinds of troubles but remained intact their
24 entire lives together, worked very hard for many
25 years, taught their sons the value of hard work,

1 raised and educated them, and they take the age of
2 40 as an example, produced two accomplished and
3 successful children. Why is this nothing?

4 MS. GURLAND: I think -- without it in front
:28PM 5 of me, Your Honor, I think if it was a statement
6 that Mr. Blagojevich made to the probation officer
7 that was quoted, he was talking about the family,
8 the family "coming from nothing" meaning that they
9 had to work financially.

10 THE COURT: The quote is that he came from
11 nothing. I mean, I don't understand it. This is
12 the backbone of America. The backbone of America is
13 generally not speaking of people who get elected
14 Governor, it's people who raised them. This is a
15 classic American story and it's -- I'm assuming his
16 use of the word "came from nothing" was somehow
17 inadvertent.

18 MS. GURLAND: I think it referred to --
19 inadvertent, Your Honor, if you think that he was
20 trying to denigrate in any way the sacrifices that
21 his mother and father made for him and for his
22 brother, because I am certain that that would never
23 be anything that he would do.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MS. GURLAND: I think that there might have

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:30PM 1 been some kind of financial concerns because, as I
2 understood it, one of the reasons why his mother
3 worked in factories and utensil factory and the CTA
4 is that they had some difficulty making ends meet
5 and that they were working class people that tried
6 very hard and struggled financially in order to
7 provide for the family, I think that's what the
8 reference was.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

:30PM 10 MS. GURLAND: Mr. Blagojevich did go on to
11 college and then to law school. When he was a young
12 man beginning his legal career he met Patti and they
13 began dating. Around this time, as Patti
14 Blagojevich wrote in her letter, Rob's father
15 suffered a massive stroke and needed 24 hour care in
16 a nursing home. Part of their early courtship as a
17 result consisted of going to the nursing home to
18 visit Rod's father.

19 When Patti would see the elder
20 Mr. Blagojevich, his father's eyes would light up to
21 see Rod Blagojevich walk into the room. She
22 explained that many times coming back from some sort
23 of event or some sort of date they'd stop by the
24 nursing home just to check on Mr. Blagojevich's
25 father while he was sleeping.

1 when his father passed away, Mr. Blagojevich
2 spent enormous amounts of time with his mother, and
3 as described in Mrs. Blagojevich's letter, even
4 moving in for a time during her grieving process to
5 make sure she was all right. Immediately after
6 which she moved closer to Rod and Patti Blagojevich
7 so that she could be cared for. Mr. Blagojevich was
8 undoubtedly devoted to his mother and his father and
9 appreciative for the sacrifices that they made for
10 him growing up.

11 This appreciation and devotion resulted in a
12 lifelong affinity with working class people who were
13 struggling to provide a good living for themselves
14 and for their families. He felt more comfortable
15 around people who had to work hard for a living than
16 he did with the people that he found himself
17 surrounded with later in life who never had to
18 struggle in life for anything.

19 when Mr. Blagojevich announced that he was
20 running for Governor and when he was successful in
21 the election, he had a victory party and the
22 announcement at the Finkl Steel Company, which is
23 the factory in which his father had worked. And
24 it's another personal tradition of his was that the
25 next day, after a successful election, he would go

1 to the Jefferson CTA stop on the Blue Line I believe
2 it is, because that's where his mother had worked.
3 He did that to honor his mother and his father and
4 to illustrate to anybody who would have been paying
5 attention that he felt proud of where he came from.

6 Sean Schultz, a 26-year old friend and
7 neighborhood of Mr. Blagojevich, wrote to the Court
8 describing Mr. Blagojevich's caring attention to his
9 neighborhood. This is a quote from the letter:

10 "....Rod also spent hours upon hours walking,
11 driving, and running around his neighborhood,
12 talking to regular folks, helping them with any
13 problem they had no matter how small, making
14 improvements to our neighborhood and city. He
15 didn't care if it impress or not, he simply
16 took care of our neighborhood because it was
17 the right thing to do."

18 Tracy Whitmer, a form intern of
19 Mr. Blagojevich's echoed the same sentiment in her
20 letter to the Court describing Mr. Blagojevich's
21 general concern for his constituents and practice of
22 making time for individual meetings with people and
23 recollection of details they provided him of their
24 lives and their struggles.

25 Sister Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director

1 of Misericordia, in a September 20th, 2011 letter to
2 the Court shared her observations that
3 Mr. Blagojevich was willing to confront the
4 bureaucracy for the good of the most vulnerable
5 citizens. Sister Rosemary wrote:

6 "As Governor, Mr. Blagojevich on many occasions
7 helped us to be able to reach out to meet the
8 residential needs of more vulnerable people by
9 challenging the system to do the work it was
10 created to do. The only reward Mr. Blagojevich
11 received was the joy of knowing more children
12 and adults with disabilities would have the joy
13 of living in Misericordia, there were no other
14 conditions attached."

15 Many of Mr. Blagojevich's legislative
16 initiatives, such as expanding healthcare coverage
17 for children, as we heard the pediatrician testify
18 about a few moments ago, and seniors, expanding
19 access to preschool for children whose parents
20 didn't enough money to send them, and increasing the
21 minimum wage twice were based on his childhood
22 experiences of the struggles of working class
23 people.

24 The argument is not as is set forth in the
25 government's response to the defense submissions,

1 that Mr. Blagojevich deserves extra credit or
2 special credit for legislating when he was a
3 legislator, but the fact that his background and
4 experiences drove his policies and approach is an
5 important part of his character.

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6 It's a good stopping point, if you would like
7 me to --

8 THE COURT: Okay. We'll stop now. We will
9 resume in one hour.

:35PM
10 THE CLERK: All rise.

11 (Recess.)

12 THE CLERK: All rise.

13 (Brief pause.)

14 THE COURT: Please be seated in the
15 courtroom.

16 Counsel?

17 MS. GURLAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 When I left off in the 3553 presentation, I
19 was talking about the personal character of
20 Mr. Blagojevich and one very important component of
21 that is his concern for his family.

22 In fact, the most personal part of
23 Mr. Blagojevich's request for sentencing leniency is
24 his relationship with his wife and daughters and the
25 devastations that his absence would cause to his

1 family.

2 In the government filing, in the context of
3 talking about Mr. Blagojevich's legislative
4 accomplishments as a politician and in warning that
5 those type of things should not be considered
6 properly in mitigation unless they are present to an
7 extraordinary degree, the government relies on valid
8 case law arguments that mostly existed before the
9 sentencing guidelines became advisory, but the point
10 is still the same, in order for something to be
11 taken account of in context of a sentencing it
12 should be a factor that is extraordinary.

13 Mr. Blagojevich's adoration of and devotion
14 to his wife and daughters has been present and is
15 present to a truly extraordinary degree. As
16 explained in Patti Blagojevich's letter to the
17 court, when Mr. Blagojevich was first elected to the
18 Congress his eldest daughter was then 2. He decided
19 not to move to Washington, D.C. and not to join the
20 political scene there or the social scene; instead,
21 the family stayed in their Ravenswood home and his
22 daughter remained close to Mr. Blagojevich's mother
23 who at the time was ill with lung cancer.

24 Mr. Blagojevich also determined that while
25 congressman he was not going to take advantage of

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1 the many opportunities to take trips to exotic
2 locations as many other congressmen did, many of
3 them at the expense of the citizen.

4 Mr. Blagojevich determined instead that if he
5 wasn't able to take his daughters -- or his one
6 daughter at the time, he was not going to go. The
7 one real trip Mr. Blagojevich did take as
8 congressman was to Israel, it was sponsored by the
9 Anti-Defamation League, for that trip
10 Mr. Blagojevich was able to bring his daughter, as
11 well as his mother-in-law.

12 while congressman, Mr. Blagojevich likewise
13 skipped numerous White House dinners and other VP
14 events because being with his family every minute he
15 could was always top priority. Just after
16 Mr. Blagojevich became Governor in 2002, his second
17 daughter was born, his eldest daughter was just 7 at
18 the time. Mr. Blagojevich was again faced with a
19 decision where should his family be located, and he
20 determined with the full support of his wife Patti
21 that the family would stay in their Ravenswood home
22 and that they would not move into the Governor's
23 mansion in Springfield.

24 It was a decision that carried a substantial
25 political cost, as the people in Sangamon County

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1 were unhappy that he made the decision to stay in
2 Chicago and it cost him approval points with those
3 individuals.

4 In addition, Mr. Blagojevich missed many of
5 the social opportunities in Springfield that might
6 also have translated into political benefit for
7 himself. But again, his family and the values he
8 hoped to cultivate in his daughters was more
9 important to him.

10 Mr. Blagojevich wanted to be with his wife
11 and daughters as much as possible and he also wanted
12 their upbringing to be as normal and as down to
13 earth as was possible. That Mr. Blagojevich
14 succeeded in these goals is evidenced in the
15 observations of the principal where both of his
16 daughters attended both preschool and middle school.

17 Principal Langford wrote to the Court
18 describing Mr. Blagojevich as a living and caring
19 father. She wrote from years of direct observation,
20 that he doted on his girls and that no matter how
21 busy his public life became, he made every effort to
22 attend parent conferences, performances, class
23 events, and social functions.

24 Mrs. Langford's letter also explained that
25 Mr. Blagojevich didn't request or even allowed

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1 special treatment for himself and his wife or for
2 their girls during the time that he was Governor.
3 For school performances, for example, the school
4 offered to reserve seats for Mr. And Mrs.
:58PM
5 Blagojevich and their security detail, but
6 Mr. Blagojevich opted instead to get in line with
7 the other parents.

8 Friend and neighbor Sean Schultz wrote to the
9 Court and described his observations of
:58PM
10 Mr. Blagojevich and his eldest daughter, then 6, at
11 the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. Mr. Schultz
12 described in his letter his observation of
13 Mr. Blagojevich's success in balancing his
14 professional life and his family life. Mr. Schultz
:58PM
15 wrote:

16 "... the beautiful friendship and love he shares
17 with Patti and the kids is something I think we
18 could all agree the world needs more of these
19 days. Rod's absence from his children would
20 just destroy them, it would break their hearts
21 and tear the safe and loving home world they
22 have had around them apart."

23 After Mr. Blagojevich's arrest and
24 impeachment and during the pendency of his two
25 trials, he did not withdraw from his wife and
:59PM

1 daughters. In fact, his bond with them became even
2 closer. Mrs. Blagojevich wrote to the Court of her
3 daughters and husband. Ironically, they're even
4 closer now to him than ever before:

5 "... we have all been together constantly for
6 three years. They depend on him in ways they
7 didn't when he was governor, for rides to
8 school, for help with homework, for emotional
9 support throughout this whole unbelievable
10 ordeal for a sense of safety and security."

11 Although it is accurate, Your Honor, that
12 many defendants have families and many defendants
13 loved those families, Mr. Blagojevich's devotion to
14 his wife and daughters has been extraordinary. He
15 put them first when he was riding high on the top of
16 the world and he put them first after his public and
17 humiliating fall. Those choices and that commitment
18 are extraordinary and merit consideration in the
19 context of the sentencing.

20 It is also appropriate for the Court to
21 consider the toll Mr. Blagojevich's absence would
22 have on his young family --

23 THE COURT: Stop for a second. There are a
24 couple of things I would like to clarify.

25 Throughout the various recordings, the defendant is

1 obviously disappointed in the General Assembly's
2 treatment of various of his initiatives. Does he
3 attribute some of these difficulties in Springfield
4 to his relative absence or presence in Springfield?

:01PM

5 MS. GURLAND: I don't know if I can answer
6 what's on those tapes, Your Honor, because I have
7 not read every single wire intercept --

:01PM

8 THE COURT: Well, it's quite clear that
9 they're not passing the things he wants them to
10 pass --

11 MS. GURLAND: That I --

:01PM

12 THE COURT: -- and things there's no question
13 he cares deeply about, but does he attribute some of
14 the difficulties with the General Assembly to the
15 fact that he has not spent enough time in
16 Springfield or as much time in Springfield as other
17 Governor's have? Your answer to that are yes, no,
18 or I don't know.

:01PM

19 MS. GURLAND: I don't know what's on those
20 tapes, Your Honor, not those particular tapes.

:01PM

21 It is also appropriate for the Court to
22 consider the toll Mr. Blagojevich's absence would
23 have on his young family. Those close to the
24 Blagojevich family, including his daughters' school
25 principal, an ice skating coach, have written to the

1 Court warning of the devastation his absence for any
2 length of time would cause his family.

3 Ice skating coach Murphy wrote of
4 Mr. Blagojevich:

5 "He needs to be with his family to help them
6 grow and mature into lovely young ladies.

7 Children are fragile. Every day he's gone the
8 girls are the ones who will suffer most."

9 THE COURT: Let me stop you again. I have no
10 dispute with this, and the reason I have no dispute
11 with this is this happens in dozens of cases every
12 year. So my question to you is, why is this case
13 extraordinary in that respect?

14 MS. GURLAND: Why is it extraordinary in
15 respect of the devastation that it would cause to
16 his family?

17 THE COURT: An extraordinary devastation that
18 would not be found with somebody else who is a
19 devoted father being sent away?

20 MS. GURLAND: I think that part of the
21 answer, Your Honor, lies in the first part of the
22 presentation, which is that Mr. Blagojevich has
23 always been there for his daughters. So I imagine
24 that there might be defendants who could come before
25 the Court and who might like to talk about their

1 family because they think it would be good
2 mitigation evidence, but, in reality, they weren't
3 ever really there for their family in the way that
4 Mr. Blagojevich was.

:03PM

5 THE COURT: But he would be in roughly in the
6 same position as any other father who was always
7 there for his children.

:03PM

8 MS. GURLAND: If you could postulate a father
9 always there for his children. But, Your Honor, I
10 am the mother of four children and I have seen lots
11 of dads and lots of moms and I am familiar with
12 there being a range of good parenting and a range of
13 being there for your children, and there are people
14 who are at the extreme end of the range in which
15 they are enormously devoted and dedicated to their
16 children.

:03PM

17 THE COURT: And that's the range in which --

18 MS. GURLAND: That's the range in which
19 Mr. Blagojevich is, Your Honor.

:03PM

20 THE COURT: Okay.

:03PM

21 MS. GURLAND: And I believe that it is truly
22 extraordinary. And I've witnessed it, I've
23 witnessed it in connection with the preparation of
24 this case. I've witnessed what I am talking about
25 to Your Honor, it is extraordinary.

1 THE COURT: Go ahead.

2 MS. GURLAND: Sister-in-law Julie
3 Blagojevich's letter to the Court echoes the same
4 concern, she wrote:

5 "..., carrying Rod away from his family will
6 place enormous hardship on all of them. It
7 could potentially crush a close family unit. A
8 lengthy prison sentence will change the girls.
9 They will not be the people they were growing."

10 Sister Rosemary of Misericordia wrote
11 expressing the hope that the Court would exercise
12 compassion such that the sentence will be one that
13 gives hope to the daughters that one day they will
14 be a family again and that they will not be deprived
15 of their father indefinitely.

16 This observation is particularly critical,
17 Your Honor, as the amount of time to which
18 Mr. Blagojevich is sentenced will fade from the
19 public reports and consideration by the end of this
20 week, but there is a very real family that will have
21 to deal with the devastation in a direct and
22 personal way on a daily basis.

23 The last point that I have, Your Honor, their
24 length, is general and specific deterrence.

25 Other counsel, by and large, will be

1 addressing the final 3553A factor that we want to
2 discuss which is unwarranted sentencing disparity.

3 Specific deterrence is the most
4 straightforward. One point on which the defense and
5 the government agree is that there is zero concern
6 that Mr. Blagojevich would ever again find himself
7 in this position. He can never again hold public
8 office --

9 THE COURT: Is that true?

:05PM 10 MS. GURLAND: I believe it is, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: I thought the impeachment barring
12 him from ever holding public office under offices
13 created by Illinois.

14 MS. GURLAND: I think that there might be
15 separate result that obtains from the felony
16 convictions.

17 THE COURT: That would render him ineligible
18 for public office?

19 MS. GURLAND: I believe that that is
20 accurate. And, if not, certainly as a practical
21 matter, he wouldn't be re-elected.

22 THE COURT: As a practical matter, I
23 understand your point, but I really don't the
24 assertion that he can never again hold public
25 office, while on practical sense true, is not true

1 in the legal sense. And I'm taking only the
2 practical sense from what you just said.

3 MS. GURLAND: Okay, I'll stick with the
4 practical sense because of that I'm more certain
5 that he would not be able to hold public office.
6 And I think it's also in the probation report that
7 he wouldn't be able to legally, but I won't quibble
8 with Your Honor on the point.

9 Beyond the practical and possibility of
10 re-offense is that Mr. Blagojevich has already
11 suffered and suffered greatly in connection with the
12 charges of this protracted case.

13 From the time of his 6:00 a.m. arrest on
14 December 9th, 2008, his family and his home have
15 been irrevocably shattered. He was impeached from
16 his position as Governor, he was immediately
17 proclaimed to have been a criminal, and criticized
18 and ridiculed in every form of public media in
19 Illinois and across the country. Friends abandoned
20 him, his financial position deteriorated to the
21 point that they are now in the midst of trying to
22 sell their family home.

23 One understandable rejoinder that Your Honor
24 might have, quite rightly, is that if
25 Mr. Blagojevich didn't want all the media attention,

1 then he shouldn't have sought it out himself with
2 such numerous public appearances and defiant
3 comments in the press.

4 First, Your Honor, this was a very public
:07PM 5 case. Even if Mr. Blagojevich had said and done
6 nothing, the publicity wasn't going to go away.

7 Second, Mr. Blagojevich wanted to maintain
8 His Honor and strength because it made it easier for
9 his wife and daughters to hold their heads up during
10 what were very, very devastating media portraits of
11 them, of their family.

12 THE COURT: And did that succeed?

13 MS. GURLAND: Did it succeed?

14 THE COURT: Yeah. Were they able to hold
:07PM 15 their heads up?

16 MS. GURLAND: I think, Your Honor, that it
17 did help them in terms of dealing with the case,
18 that instead of saying they're right whatever
19 everyone says about, I'm wrong, I'm a criminal, I'm
20 bad, that Mr. Blagojevich came out and said I'm
21 going to contest this, I'm going to fight this case,
22 I think that it did help them. I mean, I don't know
23 that directly, but I believe that that's true that
24 did help them. It helped the daughters, I think,
25 yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: The government's argument about
2 his defending himself in public is, I think, maybe a
3 little different than you perceive it. And bear in
4 mind, I refuse the government's request to enter a
5 bar order against the defendant telling him not to
6 speak. And the government makes a point that he
7 might have been foolish to speak, but that's his
8 choice. Maybe he was, maybe he wasn't. The
9 government's argument is, that his speech was an
10 attempt to delegitimize the prosecution, challenge
11 the good faith of the prosecutors, phrase
12 essentially this case not as a legal case but as a
13 duel of some kind between himself and the United
14 State's Attorney. And this I think the government
15 believes, coming from a lawyer, is conduct which
16 aggravates maybe not a lot, but aggravates rather
17 than mitigates the defense. Any comment on that?

18 MS. GURLAND: I would like to comment on
19 that, Your Honor. First of all, and I think it's
20 important and Your Honor has already separated out
21 the words that Mr. Blagojevich used himself and the
22 words of some counsel who had appeared in the case
23 before, I mean you're talking about just of his
24 statements and not of statements of lawyers who are
25 involved in the first trial but not the second --

1 THE COURT: Only his. Only his.

2 MS. GURLAND: I think under the Scrushy case
3 that I had cited earlier, the Siegelman case, there
4 is actually -- and I can get Your Honor the precise
:10PM
5 page cite, but there was in that case also, it was
6 Siegelman, the Governor, came out and said that it
7 was selective prosecution and said that it was
8 unfair and he made a lot of very public statements,
9 too. And the Court in that case commented that
:10PM
10 those statements by the defendant would not actually
11 be proper aggravation evidence, and I can get Your
12 Honor the cite.

13 THE COURT: Assume for a minute I think it is
14 proper aggravation evidence, tell me why it
15 shouldn't be aggravating.
:10PM

16 MS. GURLAND: If it were to be?

17 THE COURT: Yeah, if it were something I
18 could legitimately consider tell me why it wouldn't
19 be aggravating.

20 MS. GURLAND: I think that it wouldn't -- if
21 you could legitimately consider it, I think it would
22 not be aggravating depending upon what
23 Mr. Blagojevich's position would be on that now with
24 some hindsight. And I also think that it would
25 relevant to consider that there was a pre-jury,
:11PM

:11PM
1 there was pre-jury conduct and post-jury conduct,
2 and I don't know of any very conscientious
3 appearances by Mr. Blagojevich after the jury
4 verdict, and I think that there is a real sense in
5 which that event could be a bit of watershed,
6 because it's one thing before you have actually been
7 found to be guilty to be saying that you're innocent
8 with the press but --

:11PM
9 THE COURT: I'm not interested in saying "I'm
10 innocent." He can say he's innocent all he wants
11 to. I'm interested in his attempt to characterize
12 this not as a trial but as a kind of boxing match to
13 himself and the United State's Attorney invoking the
14 athletic analogy, which is entirely inappropriate in
15 a court proceeding, which is the point of the
16 government when they say they believe that his
17 attempt was to delegitimize the entire proceeding,
18 including this part.

:12PM
19 MS. GURLAND: I think that today, Your Honor,
20 there might be some comments that you hear from
21 Mr. Blagojevich himself --

22 THE COURT: That's fine.

23 MS. GURLAND: -- particularly on that topic
24 that might address those comments better than I
25 could.

1 THE COURT: That's fine.

2 MS. GURLAND: Finally, on the topic of media
3 appearances, Your Honor, the more fantastic public
4 appearances were done to support the Blagojevich
:12PM family. Neither Mr. Blagojevich nor his wife Patti
5 had any illusions but that when Mr. Blagojevich was
6 made to look like some sort of super hero flying
7 over a city or that when Mrs. Blagojevich ate a
8 tarantula on reality television show that they were
9 doing anything other than being paid handsomely to
10 be made fun of and ridiculed. They allowed this,
11 they did not enjoy it.
12

13 The payoff was that while people howled and
14 laughed over their plight and they became a laughing
:13PM stock, they were able to keep their girls in the
15 small and nurturing private schools that they both
16 attended for preschool and middle school and they
17 were able, at least at that time, to keep their
18 family home.
19

20 The bottom line is that Mr. Blagojevich could
21 never and would never re-offend. He's already
22 endured the most severe punishment imaginable in
23 witnessing the suffering of his wife and his
24 daughters while being powerless to protect them or
25 to shelter them from any of it.
26

:12PM

:13PM

:13PM

:13PM

:13PM

1 The fact that he suffered privately while
2 appearing strong publicly or even defiant publicly
3 does not diminish either the sincerity or the depth
4 of his devastation.

:13PM

5 Finally, Your Honor, the last factor that I'd
6 like to talk with you about today in any length is
7 general deterrence.

:14PM

8 The government's general deterrence argument
9 is dramatic. They describe a course of politically
10 corrupt conduct dating back to 2002 and then they go
11 on to argue that because of what they call
12 corruption fatigue, Mr. Blagojevich has to be
13 sentenced to a truly unprecedented prison term in a
14 political corruption case to send a message.

:14PM

15 Mr. Blagojevich, as Your Honor is well aware,
16 much more so than I am, has never been convicted of
17 the pre-2008 allegations. And the government says
18 repeatedly in their filings that they're not
19 trying to use the pre-2008 allegations as relevant
20 conduct; however, the government does rely on the
21 same material as aggravation under 3553.

:14PM

22 In so doing, the government side-steps the
23 relevant conduct technical requirements but doesn't
24 lose anything because, in fact, there was no money
25 gained by Mr. Blagojevich for any of the conduct.

:14PM

1 Then they make the general deterrence argument that
2 you should use all this information in its pitch for
3 an extreme sentence. It would be unfair for the
4 un-convicted conduct to drive Mr. Blagojevich
:15PM
5 sentence, even if used in aggravation, I would
6 submit to the Court that the same principles apply
7 as were set forth in United States v. Horne
8 474 F.3d 1004, Seventh Circuit 2007, that it does
9 not promote respect for the law to allow
:15PM
10 un-convicted relevant conduct to determine a
11 defendant's sentence.

12 And I'm not saying, Your Honor, that you
13 can't consider anything that you would want to
14 consider in aggravation, but I am saying, Your
:15PM
15 Honor, that when I see the un-convicted conduct
16 become a centerpiece of the government's argument
17 for an extreme sentence, that I think that the same
18 principles of fairness and of proportionality as are
19 set forth Horne should apply.

20 THE COURT: I actually think what you are
21 arguing does not fall under general deterrence.
22 With respect to this defendant, it might fall under
23 specific deterrence, and it might fall under the
24 fourth factor of retribution, which is not addressed
25 and most people don't because there's not much you
:16PM

1 can say about retribution. But there has been a
2 policy in many courts in United States in relatively
3 uncontroversial ways, and that is take a court in a
4 smaller county of Illinois, not too small but small,
:16PM
5 say Macon or DeCatur, and in year one they noticed
6 that they're having a slight increase in marijuana
7 sales and decide to prosecute a bunch of people and
8 they send them away and they give them sentences of
9 a year. And then after a while they noticed this
:17PM
10 has been ineffective, there have been dozens and
11 dozens of more cases than they expected. And they
12 try to raise the sentence a little, and they do, and
13 it's not effective, and by the time you get to year
14 five, same offense that they got a 18-month sentence
15 five years ago now gets a 5 or 10-year sentence,
16 because the court's philosophy is what we have done
17 thus far has not achieved general deterrence.

18 So it's not the conduct for which he wasn't
19 convicted, although I actually do have a right to
20 consider that, but that's a different argument. The
21 argument here and the argument that the government
22 is making, in part, is, that if governmental
23 corruption--and there were previous cases involving
24 governmental corruption--if that's not fading in
25 light of the previous prosecution, general

:17PM

:18PM

1 deterrence would counsel that perhaps the sentences
2 should be raised, even for an offense that is
3 exactly the same. That's what general deterrence is
4 concerned with, and there are answers to this, I'd
5 like to hear yours.

6 MS. GURLAND: Yes, Your Honor, I was getting
7 to the discussion about the use of it, the use of
8 the pre-2008 conduct was a preamble.

9 The government's general deterrence argument
10 is to Mr. Blagojevich should face a severe sentence
11 because politicians do not seem to be deterred by
12 criminal prosecutions. The problem with this
13 approach is twofold: First, the most obvious
14 indication from the amount of political corruption,
15 nationwide, from my review of the cases, Your Honor,
16 not just in the State of Illinois, is that criminal
17 prosecutions do not appear to be working to meet
18 general deterrence objectives in political
19 corruption cases.

20 The government recognizes this fact, but then
21 argues that because of corruption fatigue it
22 justifies an extreme sentence for Mr. Blagojevich.

23 Common sense dictates that if an approach is
24 not working, it's not necessarily the right strategy
25 to double down on it. It's difficult to know what

:19PM
1 might work to deter political corruption, and the
2 defense doesn't argue that it's not a significant
3 problem, similar to financial crimes which are just
4 as pervasive and intractable, but if a jail sentence
5 of 6 or 7 years that have been meted out in the
6 reported cases for high-level officials don't work,
7 then it is highly unlikely that the government's
8 more extreme numbers would fair any better.

9 As will be discussed by other counsel --

:19PM
10 THE COURT: So your problem is not with the
11 theory, it's just that this particular approach
12 won't work and therefore shouldn't be followed.

13 MS. GURLAND: What I'm saying, Your Honor, is
14 similar to that. What I'm saying is that I don't
15 think that it's a good answer to say it's not
16 working, so let's take what we've done before and
17 more than double it because maybe that will work. I
18 don't think that that is a good argument I think
19 that there could --

:20PM
20 THE COURT: Wait. Wait. Wait. In the
21 beginning your argument was that if you take a look
22 at the political corruption cases in the United
23 States, that sentences have been increasing and that
24 it hasn't diminished the amount of political
25 corruption. And let's say that I take that as that

1 premise is true, you're saying that in a case like
2 this when it's established that raising the sentence
3 is not doing any good, then there's no justification
4 for raising the sentence?

:21PM

5 MS. GURLAND: That's right, Your Honor. I
6 think that there's a second argument that's even
7 more significant, but I think that one argument is
8 that if it's not working, don't apply it more.

:21PM

9 As will be discussed with other counsel, the
10 conduct of which Mr. Blagojevich was convicted,
11 while more news-worthy and more dramatic, was not
12 the type of cash-grabbing personal corruption as was
13 involved in other cases, nor was the public harm as
14 great. So I guess the separate submission, Your
15 Honor, is that I don't particularly think that this
16 would be the case to use to try to send an extreme
17 message by putting someone in jail for twice what
18 other former governors have received.

:21PM

19 But more importantly, the government's
20 argument actually amounts to request of this Court
21 to sentence Mr. Blagojevich on the basis of conduct
22 committed by other prominent Illinois politicians
23 rather than Mr. Blagojevich himself.

:21PM

24 In addition to Ryan and Warner and Vrdolyak
25 and Fawell and Rostenkowski having been punished for

:21PM

:22PM
1 their own convictions as has already been
2 accomplished, or I guess with respect to Mr. Ryan is
3 in the process of being accomplished, the argument
4 is that Mr. Blagojevich needs to pay with his
5 conduct as well, pay for this conduct as well. I
6 would submit to the Court that this position is
7 demonstrably unfair to Mr. Blagojevich.

:22PM
8 And, indeed, the law and the spirit of the
9 sentencing guidelines clearly establish that
10 sentencing is to be an individualized process. The
11 principle was stated in United States v. Moore,
12 543 F.3d 891, Seventh Circuit 1997 --

:22PM
13 THE COURT: Yeah, I accept that, but I don't
14 think that's really the government's argument, at
15 least not in whole. I think the government's
16 argument is not simply that this Governor came after
17 Governor Ryan, the government's argument is his
18 conduct was morally worse because at the time he did
19 it he knew that Governor Ryan had gone to prison,
20 had committed political corruption, had indicated
21 his knowledge of it, and his satisfaction with the
22 result. So the fact that Governor Ryan was
23 convicted is not something free floating out there.
24 This is something which the defendant himself was
25 aware, somebody in precisely the same position, who

1 violates his oath, maybe not in exactly the same way
2 but violates his oath, and that state of Governor
3 Blagojevich's mind is a factor that could be fairly
4 taken into account as aggravating, that's the one
5 you have to answer.

:23PM

6 MS. GURLAND: I understand the argument, Your
7 Honor, and there are many distinctions as other
8 counsel are going to talk about in more detail
9 between Mr. Blagojevich's case and George Ryan's
10 case, but there are some facts about things that
11 Mr. Blagojevich did when he first became Governor.

:24PM

12 He, for example, had an independent Inspector
13 General's Office. He appointed Z. Scott, who was
14 formerly a supervisor at the United States
15 Attorney's Office to head it up. When Rezko came to
16 his attention, something that Rezko was doing came
17 to his attention, he actually reported Rezko to the
18 Inspector General's Office and then told Rezko he
19 had done it. He had a policy that individuals who
20 were employed by the state were not allowed to make
21 campaign contributions to his campaign and had a
22 policy of giving them back when they did. He had
23 policies and initiatives that said that people in
24 his administration weren't actually allowed to be
25 lobbyists and try to do business with the State of

:24PM

:24PM

:24PM

1 Illinois.

2 There weren't any allegations of misuse of
3 his campaign funds, there weren't any tax
4 irregularities, there weren't any problems with his
5 campaign fund. And, indeed, not for want of
6 investigation, because I understand that there was a
7 fair bit of investigation, but he didn't misuse his
8 campaign funds at all. And, indeed, there was
9 information that when there was a trip to Florida in
10 which his children and his wife accompanied him even
11 when it was something that was official business,
12 that he actually reimbursed the campaign fund
13 \$11,000 even though it's my understanding that some
14 lawyers who were advising him at the time from a
15 prestigious law firm told him that that might not
16 even have been necessary to do.

17 So there are a number of factors and there
18 are a number of just facts about things that
19 happened with Mr. Blagojevich and from early in his
20 term that do reveal if you're trying to look at his
21 intent, an intent to learn from allegations that
22 were made in another cases. And I think that other
23 counsel can address this more because I'll tell Your
24 Honor, you know, in all honesty, I don't feel
25 incredibly comfortable talking about George Ryan

1 because I did represent Larry Warner, the
2 codefendant and I feel --

3 THE COURT: But what you said now is
4 essentially the entire answer you are capable of
5 giving to the question I asked.

6 MS. GURLAND: That would be essentially, yes.

7 THE COURT: okay.

8 MS. GURLAND: But I would like to continue,
9 Your Honor, I won't belabor the United States v.
10 Moore case because you obviously know much more
11 about it than I do, but it is I think an important
12 principle to remember that there is a concern that
13 individuals be sentenced as individuals. And I know
14 that that's a bit at odds with the 3553(a) framework
15 which tells you that can consider general
16 deterrence; obviously, if you can consider general
17 deterrence, you can consider the policies that Your
18 Honor has very much in mind. But there can be
19 contentions between one part of the law and another
20 part of the law and what I would submit to the Court
21 is there is intention there, because these cases and
22 the sentencing guidelines do tell us that sentencing
23 is supposed to be an individualized process.

24 In another case United States v. Harris,
25 558 F.2d 366, Seventh Circuit 1977, the Seventh

1 Circuit discussed the concern that the sentencing
2 process be objective and fair to the individual
3 defendant.

4 In United States v. Pinto, 875 F.2d 147,
5 :27PM Seventh Circuit 1989, in the context of holding that
6 the then new sentencing guidelines were
7 constitutional, the Seventh Circuit held that the
8 guidelines did not deprive the defendant of due
9 process because they focused on the offender and the
10 defense.
11 :27PM

12 Post-guideline cases make it clear that the
13 focus on the individual is even more clear. In
14 United States v. Gall, 552 U.S. 38 2007, the Supreme
15 Court reversed the Eighth Circuit's rejection of a
16 sentence of probation for a young man who had taken
17 part in a drug conspiracy. The court affirmed the
18 district court's sentencing determination holding,
19 and I quote:
20 :28PM

21 "... it has been uniform and constant in the
22 federal judicial tradition for the sentencing
23 judge to consider every convicted person as an
24 individual and every case as a unique study in
25 the human failings that sometimes mitigate,
sometimes magnify the crime and the punishment
to ensue."

:28PM
1 More recently, in Pepper versus United
2 States 131 Supreme Court 1229, 2011, the Supreme
3 Court held that no limitation on information about
4 the defendant's background, character, and conduct,
5 including in that case evidence of post-sentencing
6 rehabilitation, should be imposed.

7 what's the --

8 THE COURT: I thought actually you were
9 arguing for limitations to be imposed.

:28PM
10 MS. GURLAND: A limitation --

11 THE COURT: Weren't you previously talking
12 about certain things that I shouldn't consider that
13 there are limitations on it and now you're quoting
14 the Supreme Court saying there should be no
15 limitations? Is it your view that the holding of
16 the Supreme Court was a holding that there are
17 limitations for some kinds of evidence and no
18 limitations for others?

19 MS. GURLAND: I'm not sure I understand. Are
20 you talking about the McCormick case, Your Honor,
21 the other Supreme Court case?

22 THE COURT: Yeah.

23 MS. GURLAND: I'm not sure that, at least
24 from my reading of the McCormick case, I'm not sure
25 that it was standing for the principle that in

:29PM
1 sentencing that there were certain things that were
2 inappropriate for the judge to consider. My reading
3 of the McCormick case is that it was telling
4 district courts that when you're in the kind of
5 situation where you're actually talking about
6 campaign contributions that might be legal and
7 legislative action on the other side there's a
8 chance it might be legal, so be careful, so be
9 careful.

:30PM
10 But I think the Pepper case is talking purely
11 in a sentencing context and it's saying if you're
12 talking about sentencing a person, that you
13 shouldn't limit the kind of information that you
14 could consider because you should really talk about
15 and think about the individual. And even if, as I
16 think was unclear before the Pepper case, the
17 individual for whatever procedural reasons was
18 sentenced and then there was a time that they had
19 some rehabilitative conduct and then came before the
20 Court again, it made clear that the court should
21 consider everything, including what happened from
22 the time of the first sentencing to the time of the
23 second.

24 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.

25 MS. GURLAND: Put simply, the laws and

1 principles of basic fairness dictate that
2 Mr. Blagojevich should not be punished for
3 historical political corruption in Illinois or
4 anywhere else.

:30PM

5 He is an individual who had --

:31PM

6 THE COURT: Speaking of that, I began by
7 asking you a question about the lines in two of the
8 pleadings that were filed about no harm to Illinois,
9 and I noticed that you, when you spoke out, said no
10 financial harm. Are you conceding that there could
11 be, not asking if there is, but there could be
12 non-financial harm to the State of Illinois in a
13 case like this.

:31PM

14 MS. GURLAND: I imagine that the government
15 will stand up and make the argument that there was,
16 as was in the Gamon case that they cited, that there
17 was an undermining of the public confidence from
18 some of the actions that were at issue in the case,
19 I imagine that I would hear that from the
20 Government. I wasn't going to make that argument in
21 mitigation, but I allowed that they will probably
22 make that case. Although, I would point out that in
23 the Gamon case that they're going to be talking
24 about, as an example, the things that were happening
25 in that case were that the defendant was taking

:32PM

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1 enormous amounts of cash, he was taking jewelry, he
2 was taking athletic equipment, he was taking meals,
3 he was taking vacations, he was sort of a true
4 hands-in-the-pot personal corrupt individual, and I
5 believe that that's a difference, but I understand
6 that they'll make that argument and I understand
7 that that is an argument that you would make if you
8 were the government in this case.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

:32PM
10 MS. GURLAND: Mr. Blagojevich is an
11 individual who has and will suffer his punishment as
12 an individual and that is how he should justly be
13 sentenced.

14 The final factor, Your Honor, other counsel
15 are going to talk about and that's unwarranted
16 sentencing disparities, and that applies in several
17 context here. Disparities between Mr. Blagojevich
18 and others in the same case, disparities between
19 Mr. Blagojevich and other high profile Illinois
20 political corruption cases --

:33PM
21 THE COURT: Is someone else going to talk
22 about this?

23 MS. GURLAND: Someone else will talk
24 particularly about George Ryan.

25 THE COURT: Well, then, let's leave it to

1 someone else.

2 MS. GURLAND: I was just outlining it.

3 The last two other distinctions between other
4 2C1.1 defendants and the final one, I hope there
5 will be a distinction between some of the press
6 clippings that the government provided in Exhibit A
7 because those cases are very different.

8 Your Honor, if Mr. Blagojevich were to be
9 punished at anywhere near the level that the
10 government is advocating, he would be the most
11 severely punished political corruption defendant in
12 Illinois history or in any state in the United
13 States based on this particular conduct.

14 In conclusion, there can be no doubt that
15 this is a significant case. It's significant
16 because it involves the drama of a sitting Governor
17 being arrested at his home, impeachment proceedings,
18 hundreds of hours of tape and all the transcripts,
19 many of them very colorful and very quotable, the
20 large public persona of the defendant and the
21 strident and numerous statements of certain of his
22 lawyers. However much publicity these factors
23 attracted, Your Honor, they're not the factors that
24 should drive the sentencing outcome in this case.
25 They are not conduct or the character to be

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1 sentenced. Sentencing an individual defendant is an
2 awesome responsibility because all of the arguments
3 and concerns that will be raised by the government
4 have to be weighed against what will be suffered by
5 a man and his family. I hope and believe that Your
6 Honor will weigh all of the sentencing factors and
7 arrive at a sentencing determination that is
8 sufficient but not greater than necessary to satisfy
9 the factors set forth in 3553. Thank you.

:34PM
10 THE COURT: why don't you pause for a moment
11 because I wanted to ask you something that the
12 government cited.

13 (Brief pause).

:35PM
14 THE COURT: Well, I could look for a long
15 time, instead of doing that I'm going to ask the
16 government where do you cite Judge Castillo's
17 opinion, which document.

18 MR. SCHAR: The government's sentencing
19 memorandum, on the November 30th, Judge, and it's
20 Page 12, I believe.
:36PM

21 (Brief pause).

22 THE COURT: They gave me a citation which
23 I've seen before, it's been given to me on more than
24 one occasion. And basically your argument on this
25 particular issue is in fact in direct conflict with

1 Judge Castillo's premises, not necessarily with his
2 ruling, and I want to make sure that I'm not
3 misreading your argument, the quote runs this way,
4 from United States versus Spano:

5 "... we need not resign ourselves to the fact
6 that corruption exists in government. Unlike
7 some criminal justice issues, the crime of
8 public corruption can be deterred by
9 significant penalties that hold all offenders
10 properly accountable. The only way to protect
11 the public from the ongoing problem of public
12 corruption and to promote a respect for the
13 rule of law is to impose strict penalties on
14 all defendants who engage in such conduct."

15 Now, I do want to point out that Judge
16 Castillo and most judges were not burdened by being
17 elected to office do not say what elected officials
18 often say which is we're going to fix this problem
19 so that it will never occur again, because it will
20 occur again, and we are realists here and we know it
21 will occur again. The policy of sentencing is to
22 make it occur less, we don't deal with "never"
23 because "never" is an impossibility. But Judge
24 Castillo rests on certain premises by the public
25 corruption can be deterred by significant penalties

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1 and that the only way to protect the public from the
2 ongoing problem of public corruption and to promote
3 respect for the rule of law is to impose strict
4 penalties on all defendants. Am I correct in
5 believing that you disagree with his premises?

6 MS. GURLAND: I don't disagree with the
7 premise that it's important to consider policies to
8 deter conduct, but I guess where I would depart from
9 is I don't believe -- well, first of all, it's a
10 definitional thing, Your Honor, because I don't
11 think that the defendant -- first of all, I think
12 the defendant in the Spano case that the conduct
13 that we're talking about was much more egregious --

14 THE COURT: But he's not talking about Spano.
15 This is a general principle and it's being cited as
16 a general principle. And you've cited many cases
17 that are not particularly tied to the facts but are
18 reciting a general principle.

19 MS. GURLAND: In the general principle, Your
20 Honor, I would say that in order to impose a strict
21 sentence in this case or a sentence that is a
22 serious sentence in this case, given the crimes that
23 are at issue in this case, that that sentence
24 doesn't need to be anywhere near the sentence that's
25 being advocated by the government.

1 THE COURT: okay. Thanks.

2 who's next?

3 MR. GOLDSTEIN: May I proceed, Your Honor?

4 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

5 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I'm going to speak briefly
6 and Mr. Sorosky will speak and then I will sum it
7 up, Your Honor, just for scheduling purposes.

8 As far as the disparities, and I think what
9 we have, and Your Honor has alluded to this in your
10 questions, the disparity of sentences amongst
11 districts and judges is, in some ways, in conflict
12 with general deterrence because we have a principal
13 of trying to treat everyone fairly and equally that
14 are in similar situations, as well as the principle
15 of we want to make sure we can deter crime. So
16 disparities really, in some ways, is in conflict
17 with the general deterrent principle.

18 what I'd like to say, Your Honor, is that as
19 far as deterrence goes, I think we're missing a bit
20 of the point, and that is deterrence, general
21 deterrence, does work. Just because there are
22 crimes as you said, Your Honor, that will never,
23 ever happen, okay, just because we have crimes that
24 occur again doesn't mean that general deterrence is
25 not working. If you look at the history of

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1 political corruption, there's been many, many
2 successful strides that the state, the country,
3 quite frankly, the world has made and a lot of that
4 has to do with general deterrence, but there is a
5 point in which general deterrence isn't the end of
6 be all.

:41PM
7 And we can get into a political debate about
8 this, and we don't necessarily need to, but we do
9 have a political system which has money in it. And
10 one problem, certainly maybe it's just the opinion
11 of the speaker right here, is that we have too much
12 money in politics and we do have a problem because
13 of the money being in politics. And that has
14 nothing to do with whether we have general
15 deterrence or disparities, or any of these issues,
16 it's that you have so much money in politics which
17 does cause problems in these cases.

:42PM
18 So general deterrence is a factor, it is
19 important, and it does work. In this case, Your
20 Honor does not need to sentence Mr. Blagojevich
21 anywhere near to what the government is suggesting
22 for general deterrence purposes.

23 And if you may allow me to just speak
24 hypothetically. If Mr. Blagojevich got a sentence,
25 let's say, a third of what the government is

1 suggesting, what we hypothesize when it comes to
2 general deterrence is that an individual, in this
3 case a politician, will say, you know what,
4 Blagojevich got off with 5 years, it's open season.
:42PM
5 And I know it's a bit silly, it's sort of
6 exaggerates the point. That being said, there is no
7 one, no one in their right mind that will look at
8 this case and see, oh, Mr. Blagojevich got some
9 short prison sentence nowhere near what the
:43PM
10 government is asking or asked and say it's open
11 season, now we can go head and do everything.

12 The amount of pain and humility and then
13 punishment that Mr. Blagojevich will receive is
14 plenty to deter generally, to politicians, to all
15 law abiding citizens.
:43PM

16 So I think just because we say Blagojevich
17 got a sentence in the range of what the government
18 suggests, that somehow now it's going to send a
19 message, if an individual, a politician,
20 particularly a government officeholder, has won
21 election, they certainly feel proud about
22 themselves, they're successful, if they truly
23 believe that they can go ahead and commit crimes
24 because 5 years, let's say, was the sentence, that
25 person is not in the right state of mind and beyond
:44PM

1 deterrence.

2 So deterrence does work. Unfortunately,
3 because of the absence of crime, we don't
4 necessarily see the results of it, but I would
5 suggest, Your Honor, that it does work.

6 That being said, we have the issues of
7 disparities, and that does, to a certain degree, go
8 against the ideas of general deterrence, but I think
9 they can work in concert.

10 And what I'd like to do, just briefly for
11 Your Honor, is going over -- the government
12 suggested five examples and I'd like to distinguish
13 them for Your Honor and then give you some other
14 examples of why there would be a disparate impact
15 against Mr. Blagojevich if you sentenced him to the
16 range that they're suggesting.

17 So the government in their exhibit, in their
18 submission of the sentencing memorandum gave five
19 examples --

20 THE COURT: Well, let me ask one question.

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

22 THE COURT: And it has to do with your
23 position. When I read the letters there were many
24 recommendations about what I should do. Some
25 people, I think, thought that the appropriate remedy

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1 is one that is not permitted by law, which is a very
2 long period of probation and community service of
3 awesome proportions, which basically they were
4 asking me that the appropriate method of dealing
5 with this is to essentially impose a form of slavery
6 on your client, you know, put him on probation for
7 10 years and he's got to do 3,000 hours of community
8 service each year. Interesting thought, but not one
9 that has received the approval of any legislature in
10 this country.

11 But there was a recurrent interest or
12 recurrent thing in the letters, mostly written by
13 people who weren't lawyers, the people who were more
14 informed by government just to use the word
15 "lenient." Am I to interrupt that the defendant in
16 this case is not asking for probation.

17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It's a very good question,
18 Your Honor, and I have been quoted as requesting
19 probation. And the first thing I would just like to
20 say is that please don't hold a comment in the media
21 to somehow be held against Mr. Blagojevich --

22 THE COURT: No, I just want to know.

23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, we are asking for
24 the lowest sentence possible.

25 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine. You answered

1 my question.

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Judge.

3 As to the five examples that the government
4 gives, I submit to Your Honor that these are nowhere
5 similar to Mr. Blagojevich's case. And I'll briefly
6 go over it because Your Honor has read these, but we
7 have a Mr. Kallas who received 18 years. And this
8 individual was an Immigrations and Customs attorney.
9 This person took thousands of dollars in bribes from
10 illegal immigrants that were trying to prevent being
11 sent out of the country. This is nowhere close to
12 what Mr. Blagojevich did, Your Honor.

13 In fact, the government, I believe it was the
14 FBI, searched Mr. Kallas' home, what they found were
15 24 immigration files and \$177,000 in cash. Besides
16 Mr. Kallas' salary--and I believe the case was
17 decided in approximately 2010--since 2000, besides a
18 salary, he deposited \$950,000 in his bank account.
19 This man was receiving cash in hand, in pocket, over
20 a strong period of time. And talk about the
21 consequences. These were people that were
22 committing crimes. In fact, he recommended, as a
23 member of ICE, to have a case dismissed based on a
24 bribe. An individual that was committing crimes
25 against the country as being in the country

1 illegally was able to stay in the country because of
2 these bribes. This is nowhere close to Mr.
3 Blagojevich's case.

4 You have as well Mr. Don Hill also known as
5 the Dallas City All Corruption case. Again, this
6 was the mayor Pro Tem of Dallas. He was an
7 individual, along with several, several other
8 people, there were many, many codefendants, he
9 received 18 years. Again, cash in hand. And
10 basically what he was doing was taking cash in hand
11 to allow a developer to build a certain part of
12 Dallas, which is south Dallas, cash in hand, not the
13 same as the case before Your Honor.

14 And I'm going to -- I'm not going to try to
15 pronounce the third person's name who received 28
16 years, this was the judge who was in what was called
17 the Kids For Cash racket. Again, Your Honor, this
18 is nowhere, nowhere close to the case you have
19 before you. This individual, as a judge, took
20 several -- actually \$2.8 million in bribes. He took
21 cash in hand from people developers and builders of
22 juvenile detention centers, then with that money he
23 sentenced, it's unclear exactly how many people were
24 directly related, but several thousand juveniles to
25 detention centers based on those bribes. Based on

1 his conduct, and this is tangible harm here, 4 to
2 5,000 juvenile cases were dismissed because of what
3 he did. Nowhere near, Your Honor, what is before
4 you.

:50PM

5 The next case is Jonathan Bolar who received
6 17 years. This is an individual in Louisiana,
7 Gretna City, he was a councilman who extorted
8 multiple victims in return for a lot of various land
9 use matters. He was extorting regular citizens
10 coming in saying, hey, I need a variance for this,
11 hey I need something changed as far as land use for
12 that. And the judge specifically said that he
13 hustled the church for more than \$30,000. This is
14 District Judge Lance Africk, A-f-r-i-c-k, and the
15 quote was, "he took money on the church Altar and
16 used it to make his Lexus payments." This is not
17 before you, Your Honor. This is not
18 Mr. Blagojevich, and these are not the crimes that
19 he was convicted of.

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:51PM

20 And Mr. Bolar received 17 years.

:51PM

21 Larry Langford is the final example that the
22 government presents to Your Honor in their
23 submission. He received 15 years. He was in
24 Alabama the Birmingham mayor and the Jefferson
25 County Commission President. They calculated he

:51PM
1 received \$241,843, I guess they really calculated
2 specifically to the dollar, in bribes for
3 bond-related business. He was convicted of 60
4 counts of conspiracy, bribery, fraud, money
5 laundering, and filing false tax returns. Again, he
6 received 15 years on the bottom end of what the
7 government is suggesting and recommending to Your
8 Honor. Nowhere near what Mr. Blagojevich has been
9 convicted of, nowhere near the man that is before
10 Your Honor.

:52PM
11 So I submit, Your Honor, that these
12 suggestions just are not applicable here. And I'd
13 like to give you, if you can bear with me, just a
14 few examples of other cases that I don't even think
15 are necessarily comparable to this case, but at
16 least as far as the sentence, I think this puts us
17 in the range that is certainly more appropriate.

18 And we've spoken about it the everyone knows
19 about it, the case of George Ryan.

:52PM
20 THE COURT: What did the judge get?

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: The judge received 28 years.

22 THE COURT: Fine.

23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: That was one, and I
24 apologize, thank you for asking, Your Honor. The
25 four of the five are within the range, the judge

1 received way more than that. I believe, and the
2 government can certainly correct me if I'm wrong, I
3 believe there was certain move by the government,
4 they wanted life and I think it was certainly
5 reduced to the neighborhood of the 28.

:53PM

6 THE COURT: From your reading of the case,
7 could you determine if the sentence was influenced,
8 in part or in whole, not by the money but by the
9 damage done by the judge, the respect, trust, and
10 confidence placed in the judiciary?

:53PM

11 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Oh, absolutely. And I
12 understand your question. But here is one very
13 distinguishing factor, at the sentencing hearing,
14 from my readings, several, several people who were
15 adversely affected specifically by this judge, and
16 families, children and juveniles who were sentenced
17 -- like one juvenile was a young teenager who had
18 just a simple marijuana case, had no priors before,
19 and went to a detention center and received, you
20 know, Department of Corrections in I believe it was
21 Pennsylvania, his life was changed. The whole
22 family structure changed. I mean, the poor kid went
23 through so much because of this sentence. Yeah, he
24 made a mistake and he committed this crime, but, for
25 the most part, especially in juvenile court, a petty

:53PM

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1 crime that something should not have been -- a kid
2 to be hauled away to prison, and this individual
3 was.

4 So what you had at the sentencing hearing
5 were tangible individuals, people that were clearly
6 and directly affected by these crimes by this judge.
7 Did it undermine the integrity? Absolutely. of the
8 judicial system. And I understand what Your Honor
9 is saying. And I think, I think we would be
10 completely disingenuous, Your Honor, if we said that
11 these crimes that Mr. Blagojevich is being convicted
12 of does not affect the public trust. It absolutely
13 does. It absolutely does. And we cannot say it
14 does not.

15 That being said, considering the totality of
16 all the factors that are before Your Honor, it still
17 does not warrant anywhere near the sentence that the
18 government is suggesting.

19 And thank you for your that question, Your
20 Honor.

21 As we spoke about Mr. Ryan, and to a certain
22 degree he's maybe the second elephant sitting in the
23 room, Your Honor. And we all know the facts. I
24 don't really want to go too much into it. But we
25 know he received 6 and a half years. He was the

1 governor of Illinois, and, granted, he was convicted
2 of crimes, not while he was -- not for crimes that
3 he committed as governor, nonetheless he was the
4 governor, he was convicted of 18 counts of
5 racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud, tax evasion,
6 and making false statements. He had state contracts
7 that were steered to his friends, the number that I
8 read, and certainly the government can correct me if
9 I'm wrong, was a value \$167,000. And certainly
10 while it wasn't necessarily conduct or results that
11 were in front of the Court as to, you know, the
12 guilt or innocence phase, we certainly have a
13 serious tragedy that was connected to the crimes
14 that Mr. Ryan was involved in. And Your Honor knows
15 them well.

16 Not to mention the conduct that Mr. Ryan did
17 to cover up these crimes. The tax evasion and then
18 installing a close friend as Inspector General to
19 cover up these things. In many ways one can say,
20 and I think it's very plausible, that he became
21 Governor because he was able to cover up these
22 things in what he did as Secretary of State.

23 So, again, for the crimes that Mr. Ryan
24 committed, again nowhere near what Mr. Blagojevich
25 stands convicted before you on, and a sentence of

1 6 and a half years.

2 Ed Vrdolyak was mentioned. Here is an
3 individual, not as a public figure, received \$1.5
4 million kickback with Stuart Levine. He received
5 10 months.

6 I would like to present a few others and I
7 will be brief, Your Honor.

8 Efren Gonzalez, he was a State Senator in New
9 York. His case just recently was handed down as far
10 as appeal. Procedurally what happened was,
11 Mr. Gonzalez pled guilty and he tried to withdraw
12 his plea but that was rejected. Mr. Gonzalez
13 received 84 months in prison. Basic crime that he
14 was involved with was he took state money, funneled
15 that money to a charity that he controlled, and
16 approximately \$400,000 basically went straight to
17 him. That involved personal expenses, vacation
18 club, a luxury apartment, Yankees baseball tickets,
19 summer home, kids tuition, everything personal,
20 money going straight to him, cash in hand, personal
21 benefit, he received 84 months.

22 Vince Fumo, F-u-m-o, he was a Pennsylvania
23 State Senator. He went to trial and was convicted
24 of all 137 counts against him. The charges were
25 mail fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy, obstruction of

1 justice, and filing of false tax return. The
2 reports were basically he was using state workers as
3 his own personal employees. He had his state
4 workers oversee construction of his mansion, that he
:58PM
5 said he was spying on his ex-wife, and Mr. Fumo had
6 his state employees working on his farm. He
7 commandeer yachts from the Philadelphia Seaport
8 Museum for his own personal travel, as well as he
9 was investigated in a plan to basically extort a
:59PM
10 utility company. The utility company wanted
11 deregulation law passed, Mr. Fumo said he was
12 against it, he then got them to pay \$17 million in a
13 charity that he controlled, he then voted for it.
14 It goes on and on and on, and I don't need to
:59PM
15 belabor the point, but a lot of what occurred with
16 Mr. Fumo was not prosecuted because of obstruction
17 of justice, because of attempts to try and prevent
18 the investigation. Mr. Fumo received 55 months in
19 prison, that was appealed by the government, the
:59PM
20 trial court then upped it to 61 months, that was his
21 sentence.

22 I'd like to just make another point that
23 co-counsel talked about Don Siegelman, and Don
24 Siegelman is very important in this case. Again, he
25 received 88 months. And I looked on the Internet
:00PM

1 and while this isn't a transcript, you know they
2 blog the trial and they have as much of detail, I
3 would just like to quote what the government said in
4 sentencing in Don Siegelman, and in many ways it is
5 what they are saying before Your Honor now:

6 ".... this is not about a defendant's First
7 Amendment speech rights, this is for starring
8 in propaganda machine to attack the system, to
9 say that this court is corrupt, that this court
10 has perpetrated an unlawful proceeding ..."

11 They go on to say:

12 "... the defendant was still Governor ..."

13 And, by the way, he actually ran for
14 Governor while he was on trial.

15 THE COURT: He did.

16 MR. GOLDSTEIN: And he presently has a
17 website, if you look up Don Siegelman.com, where he
18 talks about how innocent he is and how he's been
19 railroaded by the government and certainly has a lot
20 of conspiracy allegations applied to the government.
21 And why that's important, particularly looking at
22 his sentence, is Mr. Blagojevich, and he will
23 certainly address Your Honor, he did make these
24 public statements, a lot of it was I'm innocent, but
25 you are correct, Your Honor, there were other

1 statements that did not need to be said and
2 shouldn't have been said, but it comes nowhere close
3 to what Mr. Siegelman was saying. He was alleging a
4 conspiracy going all the way up to the White House.
:01PM
5 He attacked. And I hope Your Honor in no way feels
6 that Mr. Blagojevich in any way attacked you as the
7 judge or the court process. And certainly he had
8 his arguments and his attacks on the government
9 which should not have been done. That being said,
:01PM
10 Mr. Siegelman here was alleging government
11 corruption to the highest level, both on the
12 judiciary, both on the executive branch, and he
13 received 88 months.

14 And, by the way, on Mr. Siegelman, the trial
:02PM court, this was Judge Fuller in Alabama, his offense
15 level calculation was 36 which put it to a range of
16 188 months to 235 months. Again, Mr. Siegelman
17 received 88 months.

18 There's a few others that I think are
19 appropriate as well. Linda Schrenko,
:02PM
20 S-c-h-r-e-n-k-o. Granted, this was a plea bargain,
21 I understand the Court can take a difference with
22 plea bargains, but she received 8 years. She was
23 the Georgia State Superintendent of the schools, and
24 she was charged with embezzling over \$600,000 in
25 :02PM

1 federal education funds. She again used those
2 personally, including some for plastic surgery, for
3 her own personal benefit. She received 8 years.

4 Edwin Edwards, which Your Honor may be
5 familiar with, was a Governor in Louisiana who
6 received 10 years. He was found guilty of 17 out of
7 26 counts, including racketeering, extortion, money
8 laundering, mail fraud and wire fraud. I believe,
9 if you will recall, he was running for Governor in
10 the early '90s I believe against David Duke and it
11 was the clansman versus the corrupt Governor, that
12 was sort of colloquial discussion of it.

13 Betty Lauren Maltese, she received 97 months.
14 She was again, I'm sure you know, she went to trial
15 and was found guilty, president of Cicero, helping
16 to steal \$12 million of the city's funds in an
17 insurance scam.

18 One that I won't go into details with Your
19 Honor because Your Honor is infinitely familiar
20 with, Chuck Panici, the Mayor of Chicago Heights.
21 He was convicted of racketeering, extortion, and
22 bribery for a lot of money that he received
23 personally as well as connections to the mob. He
24 received 10 years.

25 And finally -- and, again, we go on and on

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1 but just to give a brief idea of some of the cases
2 that would indicate potential disparities for what
3 the government is recommending.

4 Jim Laski, he received 2 years. He was the
:04PM Chicago City Clerk. He took bribes as well, and it
5 was a plea, and obstructing justice, he was
6 encouraging witnesses to not talk about the bribes
7 that he was receiving, and that was regarding the
8 hired truck program.

10 So the cases I would suggest, Your Honor,
11 that I presented to you are much worse than
12 Mr. Blagojevich's and none of them received anywhere
13 near to what the government is suggesting.

14 And these are fairly recent in the time. I
:05PM know, Mr. Panici was over 10, 15 years ago, but
15 nonetheless, these are fairly recent in time.

17 If we look at some of the players somewhat
18 connected to this case, for example Stuart Levine.
19 Again, your Honor knows a whole lot about
20 Mr. Levine. This individual has received 67 years,
21 I don't need to go over the crimes that he committed
22 and was involved in. And I know the government has
23 made the argument, and I'm sure they will make it
24 again and made it several times, Mr. Levine received
25 this quote/unquote benefit because of his

:06PM
1 cooperation, he was an excellent cooperator. No one
2 here on this side says the cooperation should not be
3 valued. We agree. But what the government is
4 suggesting is Mr. Blagojevich get three to four
5 times more than Stuart Levine. I don't think anyone
6 here can say that what Mr. Blagojevich did was
7 anywhere near what Mr. Levine did.

:06PM
8 Mr. Levine, and I will challenge the
9 government on this one factor, his cooperation, he
10 did cooperate, but the level of cooperation is
11 highly in doubt. And what I mean by that is, in the
12 Blagojevich case he didn't testify, he testified in
13 the Rezko case, in the Cellini case. While he was
14 in the quote/unquote cooperating, he was committing
15 crimes. While he was quote/unquote cooperating, he
16 was lying to them. I would submit, Your Honor, and
17 certainly many wiser people would maybe disagree
18 with me, what was most impactful when it came to
19 Mr. Levine as a witness were those tapes that he
20 didn't wear a wire on that they recorded him on.
21 That was the most significant.

:07PM
22 I don't know if you want to wait. I hear
23 some interference in the microphones.

24 THE COURT: I think we're going to wait for a
25 minute because it's getting louder.

1 (Brief pause.)

2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Maybe hearing that is better
3 than hearing me.

4 (Brief pause).

:09PM

5 THE COURT: Okay you can try now.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay.

7 (Phone interruption in the courtroom:)

:09PM

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: People texting while I'm
9 talking? I can't believe that, Judge.

10 I just want to wrap up this small point and
11 then I'll hand it over to Mr. Sorosky.

:10PM

12 we also have the defendants in this case as
13 well as the so-called co-conspirators in this case,
14 and I understand the government has the
15 prosecutorial discretion to charge who they choose
16 to charge. So while this is somewhat relevant to
17 disparities, it's also relevant to a just
18 punishment. And Your Honor again, knows about Lon
19 Monk. I submit, certainly Lon Monk was not the
20 Governor. He was the Chief of Staff for a certain
21 period, he became a lobbyist. But again, 70 to
22 90,000 dollars that man took in cash, he also was
23 involved in the shakedown of Johnston. John Harris
24 was involved in many of the acts that
25 Mr. Blagojevich is convicted of. Both of these men

:10PM

1 certainly have the potential for probation at the
2 very least, will get a very much lower prison
3 sentence.

4 I don't want to put words in the government's
5 mouth, but it's fair to say they certainly see
6 Mr. Blagojevich obviously as a convicted criminal,
7 but suffice it to say a shark. I submit to Your
8 Honor that we certainly disagree with that, but he
9 wasn't swimming with guppies.

10 what happened was, and if you look at the
11 Senate seat, you had Marilyn Katz proposed to John
12 Harris to, in essence, tell the Governor you appoint
13 Valerie Jarrett, campaign contributions. John
14 Balanoff sat the governor and said, hey, it's going
15 to be great for you in the business community, it's
16 going to be great for you with the unions if you
17 appoint Valerie Jarrett. Rajinder Bedi, Raghu
18 Nayak, they tell Robert Blagojevich to then tell Rod
19 Blagojevich we, the Indian community, and Jesse
20 Jackson will raise you \$1.5 million in campaign
21 contributions if you appoint Jesse Jackson to the
22 Senate seat. Needless to say none of these people
23 have been convicted or charged of these crimes.

24 But what's at the very heart of these
25 charges, just the most basic element of these

:12PM
1 charges is, selfishness, considering yourself over
2 the People of the State of Illinois, Mr. Blagojevich
3 has been found guilty of that. what you have is an
4 environment that he was working in. It does not
5 absolve him of this conduct, I want to be crystal
6 clear. He has been convicted of these crimes, he
7 has to be punished for it, and he has to take
8 responsibility for it, but I think this sheds light,
9 when Your Honor is making a just punishment, the
10 environment that Mr. Blagojevich was, in essence, if
11 you want to excuse the term "playing in."

:13PM
12 All these people -- really, no one was
13 suggesting in any way that he not think of this in a
14 selfish way. It doesn't absolve him of this conduct
15 that he was convicted of, but I think it helps
16 explain for Your Honor what was going on in the
17 environment that was occurring while you consider
18 and think about what is a just punishment.

:13PM
19 I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Sorosky for a
20 brief, then I will finish up, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Sure.

22 Mr. Sorosky.

23 MR. SOROSKY: You want to break now or what?

24 THE COURT: No, it's been represented to me
25 that you will be short.

1 MR. SOROSKY: First let me say, Mr. Goldstein
2 was not under oath.

3 Your Honor, in plain street talk, the
4 government is saying send Mr. Blagojevich to jail
:14PM 5 for 15 years, or more, for what he was convicted of.
6 So no matter how lofty and complex this federal
7 court may be, forgetting about the guidelines and
8 proportionality and all those important things, or
9 perhaps putting them aside, we can never forget
:14PM 10 them, the Court first has to look fundamentally at
11 what Mr. Blagojevich was convicted of and what his
12 conduct, or words, or actions were within those
13 convictions and say to yourself what is a just
14 sentence for what he did.

15 And this Court must recognize that
16 Mr. Blagojevich was convicted, let me use the term,
17 four wrongs. I don't care how many counts they are,
18 they're fundamentally four wrongs: One is the
19 Senate seat, two is the hospital with Mr. Magoon,
20 three is the racetrack with Mr. Johnston, and four
21 is lying to a federal law enforcement officer, those
22 are the four convictions.

23 And the government could put them in all
24 sorts of multiple counts and all sorts of complex
25 legal verbiage, but those are the four convictions.

:16PM
1 And I think it's incumbent upon this court as
2 any court to look at the context of the facts of the
3 case with a legal microscope and say just what did
4 Mr. Blagojevich do. And everything I am saying is
5 based on the fact that he has been convicted, we are
6 not trying to re-litigate the case. We stand before
7 Your Honor convicted, we accept the jury's verdict,
8 we are not fighting that at this time.

:16PM
9 First let's take the Senate seat involving
10 the issue of the appointment of Valerie Jarrett.
11 This was all initiated by representatives of the
12 president-elect and they sent an emissary by the
13 name of Mr. Balanoff. Mr. Balanoff is a pretty
14 prominent man. He's the president a union in
15 Illinois, he was a big supporter of Mr. Blagojevich,
16 he was a big supporter for senator, and then
17 president-elect Obama.

:17PM
18 President-elect Obama is a very intelligent,
19 capable man, and a good man. He sent Mr. Balanoff
20 on a perfectly proper mission, and that mission was
21 would Governor Blagojevich do a political favor or
22 honor a political request for the president-elect
23 and appoint Valerie Jarrett to the Senate. She was
24 a fit candidate. It was a perfectly proper, legal
25 request. We don't say anything against that. This

1 was even amplified, as the court heard in the trial,
2 through then designate Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel
3 talking to some of Mr. Blagojevich's aides or
4 assistants to encourage this appointment.

:18PM

5 what was the crime that Mr. Blagojevich
6 stands convicted of, firstly, on this issue? He
7 asked for job in return. That's all he did at
8 first. He asked for an appointment to the Cabinet
9 in return for that. We accept the fact that's a
10 crime, that's illegal, he should not have done it.

:19PM

11 Forgetting about perhaps how ridiculous and
12 outrageous that request was from a practical or
13 political point of view, which even Mr. Blagojevich
14 acknowledged on the tapes, that crime does not call
15 for a 15-year jail sentence.

:19PM

16 Let's go on a little bit further with this
17 Valerie Jarrett issue. After Governor Blagojevich
18 at that time was quite openly and directly told no,
19 that there was no possibility of he receiving this
20 requested Cabinet post, and when his aides told him
21 why should the President point you to that, the
22 President didn't need you to win Illinois, you're
23 not qualified for that position, and besides, you're
24 tinged with scandal, why should the President get
25 anywhere near you, and real practical things like

:20PM

1 this.

2 One of Governor Blagojevich's assistance, in
3 fact it was John Harris, came up with the idea that
4 perhaps some change to win union program could be
5 arranged for Mr. Blagojevich in return for
6 appointing Valerie Jarrett.

7 Well, that was just talk and nothing occurred
8 with that, but that was somewhat amended to
9 Mr. Blagojevich's other crime involving Valerie
10 Jarrett where there was this idea or thought that
11 some organization would be created under the tax
12 code, under subsection 501(c)(4), or some other
13 section of the tax code, which would allow for very
14 wealthy people to contribute money to some
15 non-profit organization to promote healthcare.

16 And at the time President Obama was planning
17 on sending to Congress his healthcare package, which
18 eventually did become law. And at the same time, or
19 previously, Governor Blagojevich had enacted this
20 All Kids program which was somewhat in accord with
21 President Obama's healthcare plan which eventually
22 became law. And there was this thought that, and it
23 was vague, that either while Blagojevich was still
24 Governor or after he had left office and concluded
25 his term, that he would somehow go around the

:20PM

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:22PM
1 country and campaign for healthcare along the lines
2 that he, Blagojevich, felt was wise policy and what
3 president-elect Obama felt was wise policy. And I
4 believe the actual crime that Mr. Blagojevich stands
5 convicted of was when Mr. Blagojevich, in a
6 conversation with a man by the name of Doug
7 Scofield, who was a former aide and still a member
8 of his kitchen Cabinet, Blagojevich speaks to
9 Scofield about this plan and tells Scofield to call
10 John Wyma to ask John Wyma what Rahm Emanuel would
11 think of that plan.

:23PM
12 And this is the second half, if you will, of
13 the Valerie Jarrett crime. And in this conversation
14 with Scofield, Blagojevich says, see what Rahm
15 thinks about it, I want it to be legal, maybe we'll
16 hold a big press conference and announce it. And I
17 know Your Honor has heard the tapes and I don't have
18 to go into every little details, but this is the
19 second half of the Valerie Jarrett crime, and there
20 isn't any doubt there was the possibility of some
21 job or paying job for Blagojevich as a result of
22 this.

:24PM
23 However, with all due respect, I don't know
24 that that job would have been anymore money than any
25 other good paying job that any ex-Governor gets,

1 probably less, but there's no doubt this is a crime
2 to do this in relation to the Senate seat. We
3 accept that. I am just saying, that does not call
4 for a 15 to 20-year jail sentence.

:24PM

5 Now, let's go on to the hospital. And,
6 frankly, there's been a complete lack of correct
7 understanding about this hospital issue. And I
8 think even at this late date, I think we have to
9 look at this under a legal microscope and examine
10 the facts as they are.

:25PM

11 Children's Memorial Hospital wanted a stipend
12 from the state to reimburse doctors. The \$10
13 million talked about in this case was money that was
14 supposed to go to doctors who were performing
15 surgery on children whose families did not have
16 insurance and these doctors were only being
17 reimbursed by a very low and perhaps unfair rate by
18 Medicaid as provided by the State with some federal
19 supplement, whatever it may be. And I'm not saying
20 that Children's Memorial request was unreasonable,
21 or wrong, or anything like that have, but with all
22 due respect, based on the facts of the case, when
23 Children's Memorial Hospital asked for that,
24 Mr. Blagojevich said yes, and Mr. Blagojevich said
25 yes at the time when the state was cutting

:25PM

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:26PM
1 \$2 billion from its budget and after Children's
2 Memorial Hospital had contributed money to Speaker
3 Madigan and Senator Cullerton to get this, and with
4 all due respect these public officeholders took the
5 donation and did not perform a result for Children's
6 Memorial Hospital, and they certainly had the
7 legislative power to do it. Governor Blagojevich
8 said that he would do it and he said this without
9 receiving any donation unlike those legislators.

:27PM
10 Now, I think everyone would agree that
11 Governor Blagojevich may not have been the most
12 hands-on Governor, and he did not know that after he
13 said yes, when he checked with his aides that all
14 the money was out of this pot and this was in
15 October of 2008 and he then told Mr. Magoon that
16 they couldn't get the money until after the 1st of
17 the year.

:28PM
18 Come a few days later, Blagojevich and some
19 of his people are sitting around in his campaign
20 office and they're trying to raise contributions and
21 someone says well, who have you done something for
22 lately, and he says what he did for Children's
23 Memorial Hospital. And forgetting about, and I know
24 it's hard to forget about, but putting aside all the
25 self-centered John Wayne manhood language from

:29PM
1 Blagojevich, "I want to hit Magoon for 50" and all
2 that kind of thing, it was John Wyma, one of the
3 primary witnesses for the government, I could almost
4 say but for Wyma Blagojevich would not be sitting
5 here today as a defendant, that's how important he
6 was as a witness and everyone knows that's true.
7 And just let me quote from one question I asked John
8 Wyma:

:29PM
9 "Question: And did the Governor say at that
10 meeting that he did not want to directly ask
11 Magoon for money because he, Blagojevich,
12 wanted to maintain a line between government
13 and fundraising?"

14 Wyma's answer:

:29PM
15 "He did."

16 So here, this is not Sorosky, or Goldstein,
17 or Blagojevich, this is from the government's
18 primary, primary witness. So it's touchy and it's
19 murky.

:30PM
20 So brother Robert calls and asks Mr. Magoon
21 for a contribution or a fundraiser, that's what he
22 asks for, a fundraiser. And I don't know if this
23 ever came out at trial, but Children's Memorial
24 Hospital has two Boards. One Board runs the
25 hospital, the other Board are millionaires or

1 prominent people who want the honor of being on the
2 Board. I don't know everyone on that latter Board
3 but we did find out during the trial that one of
4 people on this Board was the former Cub manager who
:30PM 5 originally called Mr. Blagojevich to ask for this,
6 Dusty Baker. I have nothing against Dusty Baker,
7 but with all due respect, Dusty Baker was only on
8 that Board because he was a Cub manager so he could
9 bring the Cubs to some of these fundraisers to get
10 people to raise money.

11 I know there's a woman on the Board by the
12 name of Penny Pritzker, I think her last name
13 explains why she's on the Board and I speak nothing
14 ill of her.

15 And, frankly, when one gets on the Board, you
16 have the honor and privilege of being on the Board
17 of a great hospital like Children's Memorial
18 Hospital, but when you're on that Board and you're a
19 multimillionaire, you know you're getting on the
20 Board but you're going to be asked to contribute
21 some money to help the hospital, that's why you're
22 on the Board. And that's what Blagojevich asked
23 for, a fundraiser from the millionaires on the
24 Board, and his request was a \$25,000 fundraiser.
25 And I think later on Robert said or in that

:31PM

:32PM

1 conversation, like anyone asking for money, you take
2 what you could get, he indicated they would
3 certainly accept, yes.

4 Now, this was a crime because Mr. Magoon felt
5 :32PM that this was somehow implying if he didn't do the
6 fundraiser perhaps the 10 million-dollar grant to
7 the hospital would be affected in some way. We're
8 not fighting this. We're not fighting this. We
9 accept the verdict. But that is not an offense
10 :33PM which calls for a 15 to 20-year jail sentence. It
11 just is not.

12 Let's go on a little bit further to the
13 racetrack issue. We all know what the racetrack
14 issue was. Racetracks are now not making the money
15 :33PM they used to make, they're having trouble sustaining
16 themselves because those people who like to gamble
17 are now gambling at other places, wherever that may
18 be. However, the racetrack industry is important to
19 Illinois for many reasons, and this idea came about
20 that perhaps a minuscule sliver of profits that the
21 casinos make would be diverted or sent to the
22 racetracks so that the racetracks could sustain
23 themselves and this would preserve Illinois jobs and
24 preserve Illinois industries, and the people paying
25 :34PM this would not be the taxpayers but these huge

1 multinational corporations who own the casinos and
2 are making a great deal of money and they certainly
3 could afford it.

4 And we don't criticize the legislation. It's
5 undoubtedly perhaps good legislation. Completely
6 unrelated to this legislation, or perhaps -- yeah, I
7 could say completely unrelated to this legislation,
8 one of the racetrack owners was a big contributor to
9 Governor Blagojevich, Mr. Johnston, had been a big
10 contributor to Mr. Blagojevich in the past, hundreds
11 of thousands of dollars, and he was responsible for
12 money, he had arranged a fundraiser for
13 Mr. Blagojevich in New York with Mr. Steinbrenner at
14 Yankee Stadium. And, in fact, Mr. Johnston had
15 hired Lon Monk, the Governor's best friend, as a
16 lobbyist to assist in this enactment of this
17 legislation, and Mr. Monk is receiving a stipend of
18 \$12,000 a month.

19 So Mr. Johnston was certainly, to quote my
20 colleague Mr. Goldstein, not a guppy. And
21 Mr. Johnston, or at least Mr. Blagojevich, was told
22 by Mr. Monk that Johnston was going to give a
23 contribution, that Johnston was going to give a
24 contribution, and you heard the tapes and you heard
25 Monk, whether he lied, whether he embellished,

:34PM

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:36PM
1 whether he exaggerated, whether he really felt that
2 was the truth that it would come, Monk told
3 Blagojevich the contribution was coming. And even
4 in some of the tape recordings between Johnston and
5 Monk, Johnston tells Monk the contribution is
6 coming.

:36PM
7 So Blagojevich honestly thinks the
8 contribution is the coming. And Blagojevich was
9 wrong in that he should've completely segregated and
10 separated the signing of the bill from the
11 contribution. He didn't, and he was guilty, and we
12 accept that, and we're not arguing legality. But in
13 perhaps the most damning evidence against
14 Mr. Blagojevich on this issue, when Blagojevich is
15 talking to Monk at the Blagojevich campaign office
16 about what Blagojevich should tell Monk when Monk
17 goes to see Johnston, my colleague, Mr. Adam asks
18 Mr. Monk this question, and I will read, this is, of
19 course, at the first trial:

:37PM
20 "Question: You guys ..." meaning Blagojevich
21 and Monk "... you guys are figuring out a way
22 to make Johnston not feel extorted, isn't that
23 right?"

24 "Yeah," Monk answers. And what occurred
25 there was, Blagojevich was trying to do something

1 impossible, he was trying to concoct some type of
2 way that maybe Monk could ask Johnston to pay the
3 contribution without Johnston feeling he was
4 extorted. And it was impossible because Johnston
:38PM
5 said I felt when they asked me for the money I felt
6 it was related to the legislation. So maybe
7 Blagojevich, or undoubtedly, Blagojevich was
8 attempting to do an impossible thing, but at least
9 Monk has said they were trying to figure out a way
10 how not to make Johnston feel extorted. It was an
11 impossible task, but at least this shows a certain
12 non-evil intent, if you will, and I think that has
13 to be factor in considering a sentence, and that
14 certainly, certainly does not call for a 15 to
15 20-year jail sentence. And this is what he was
16 convicted of.

17 Now, let's turn to the false statement aspect
18 of this case. There isn't any dispute that
19 Mr. Blagojevich sat through two interviews with the
20 FBI and U.S. Attorneys, and each interview was quite
21 long, three, four hours each interview. And you had
22 FBI agents and U.S. Attorneys preparing for this
23 interview probably for weeks. And they asked all
24 sorts of pinpointed specific questions. And the lie
25 that Mr. Blagojevich was found, and the only
:39PM
:40PM

:40PM
1 allegation -- let me start out with this, the only
2 allegation that came out of this was that he lied on
3 two general sort of statements that, frankly, every
4 politician makes, and I believe the one the jury
5 felt the government didn't prove, one the first jury
6 found the defendant guilty of, and that was he does
7 not try to track who gives what in fundraising in
8 relation to state policy.

:40PM
9 Now, you accept the fact that he was
10 convicted of that; however, there has been no
11 showing that as a result of that lie the
12 government's investigation was hindered in any way,
13 the government expended any extra money as a result
14 of this false statement. You don't have a situation
15 where someone lies and says, oh, Joe Jones was not
16 at that place and so the government doesn't
17 investigate Joe Jones and they go off on a wild
18 goose chase, or something of that nature.

:41PM
19 That untruthful statement did not deter this
20 investigation one iota. The government did not show
21 that as a result of that untruthful statement in
22 2005 that anyone got any state contract or anyone
23 got any state benefit as a result of that lie. The
24 taxpayers did not lose one dime as a result of that
25 lie. Cannot justify that lie; however, that lie

1 does not call for a 15 to 20 year jail sentence.

2 Now, let's look at the last topic, the Senate
3 seat involving Congressman Jackson. I began by
4 saying we accept the fact that he has been found
5 guilty. And I have always found in my 40 years of
6 doing criminal defense work, the most difficult
7 thing is to stand up in mitigation on a point where
8 you've said you didn't do it, the jury found you
9 guilty, and then what do you say in mitigation in
10 response to that. And that's the situation we're in
11 with Congressman Jackson.

12 As the Court well knows, the Governor has
13 said that he never intended to appoint Congressman
14 Jackson, never intended to take this \$1.5 million
15 campaign contribution in exchange for the Senate
16 seat, didn't even take it very seriously, and that
17 he wanted to use a possible Jackson appointment as a
18 leverage to get certain prominent national democrats
19 to broker this deal between Speaker Madigan and
20 Governor Blagojevich.

21 And I'd ask you to hold that thought for one
22 minute while I stray a bit and tell Your Honor two
23 specific points about Governor Blagojevich, first
24 some history about Governor Blagojevich.

25 We've heard about the All Kids program, and

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:45PM
1 if I could conjecture for one minute, just for one
2 minute, or thirty seconds, perhaps even in my
3 opponent's minds they each may be saying to
4 themselves, yeah, I guess that's maybe one good
5 thing this son of a gun, Blagojevich did, the All
6 Kids program is pretty good. I'm not saying they'll
7 ever say that publicly, but they might be saying
8 that to themselves.

:45PM
9 Now, let me tell you how this All Kids
10 program came about. It was 2005, and all political
11 people in 2005, the year before are looking to the
12 next election of 2006. In 2006 Governor Blagojevich
13 was up for reelection, and Governor Blagojevich
14 wanted to enact the All Kids program. And as we all
15 know, particularly through this trial, there isn't
16 any way the All Kids program is going to be enacted
17 unless Speaker Madigan will go along with it.

:46PM
18 However, at this time Speaker Madigan had
19 some peculiar problems of his own. And I don't mean
20 bad things, because he's a good, honest, good man.
21 But one of the reasons why Speaker Madigan was so
22 powerful was he had this overwhelming majority of
23 democrats in the legislature. So every district
24 that was a swing district, and every district which
25 might be slightly marginal Republican, he had

1 elected a democrat. And it was through his ability
2 choosing good candidates and good campaigning, and
3 all that, that there was also one other ingredient,
4 Speaker Madigan had a huge war chest and Speaker
:46PM 5 Madigan certainly did not need that
6 multimillion-dollar war chest to elect himself from
7 his own district. But everyone knew that if any
8 Republican were to challenge one of the democrats in
9 any of these marginal districts, be they swing
:47PM 10 districts or slightly Republican, Speaker Madigan
11 was there with his big war chest to defend that
12 Democratic seat, because that's how Speaker Madigan
13 maintained his strength.

14 Now, in 2005, the insurance lobby said we're
:47PM 15 going to take on Speaker Madigan and we are going to
16 fund all these Republican candidates in all these
17 swing districts and marginally Republican districts
18 and attempt to defeat those democrats, because we
19 want a limit on judgments in medical malpractice
20 cases.

21 So Speaker Madigan at this time looked like
22 he would have to dig deep into his war chest, defend
23 all these seats, spend a lot of money. I'm not
24 saying he necessarily would have lost his
25 speakership, but his great majority would have been
:48PM

1 endangered and that was the essence of his political
2 strength.

3 So Speaker Madigan came up with a plan and he
4 said to the insurance lobby I'll go along with a
5 limit on judgments on medical malpractice cases if
6 you, the insurance lobby, forego your plan to defeat
7 my democrats. That may be a beautiful plan between
8 the Speaker and the insurance lobby, but if Governor
9 Blagojevich vetoes that plan, it won't work.

10 what did Governor Blagojevich ask to go along
11 with that plan? The enactment of All Kids the
12 speaker said yes. Now, what did that do to Governor
13 Blagojevich? Had the Governor said no, no, I will
14 veto that bill because in my heart of hearts I do
15 believe that there should not be a limit on medical
16 malpractice judgments. Mr. Blagojevich's biggest
17 contributor was the Illinois Trial Lawyers
18 Association, these are the very prominent well-to-do
19 premier personal injury lawyers in the city, and
20 their names are all legend, Bob Clifford, Joe Power,
21 the Corboy & Demetrio firm, Al Hofeld, Howard
22 Schaffner, I could go on for two minutes naming all
23 these very prominent, successful, capable lawyers.
24 But they are probably the only big money group on
25 the liberal Democratic side of the aisle and they

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1 were among Mr. Blagojevich's biggest contributors.
2 So if Mr. Blagojevich were truly this shallow,
3 self-centered, non-caring person, he would have said
4 to Mr. Madigan, Mr. Speaker, no, I can't agree to
5 that, I will veto any law that limits medical
6 malpractice limits. He could've gotten millions of
7 dollars from the trial lawyers, frankly separated
8 Mr. Madigan from the trial lawyers, and he would
9 have been the darling of the trial lawyers.

:51PM
10 Mr. Madigan would have had to have expended a great
11 deal of money to defend his seats, he undoubtedly
12 would have lost some, and he would have been a
13 weaker Speaker.

14 So if all Mr. Blagojevich cared about was his
15 narrow self-serving interest, he could have helped
16 his campaign funds, he could have weakened Speaker
17 Madigan, but All Kids would not have been enacted.

18 So in this political deal between Speaker
19 Madigan and the Governor, from a political point of
20 view, the Governor was a complete loser and Speaker
21 Madigan a complete winner. Speaker Madigan
22 maintained his majority, didn't have to expend a
23 fund, and didn't have to expend a cent. what did
24 the Governor got? All kids. And he also got a kick
25 to boot from his biggest contributor, the trial

:52PM

:52PM

1 lawyers.

2 Let me tell you something else about
3 Mr. Blagojevich, and I think Your Honor touched on
4 this topic where somewhere in this probation report
5 :53PM there was this comment "I came from nothing." And
6 you're right, that's an offense comment, and I don't
7 know if Mr. Blagojevich said that or not. But I
8 think I can say, to quote Governor Richards of Texas
9 and her famous comment, Mr. Blagojevich was not born
10 with a silver spoon in his mouth. And as a result
11 of that that put two ingredients in Mr. Blagojevich,
12 gave him a certain drive and it gave him a certain
13 insecurity. Let me relate the drive and then I
14 will --
15 :53PM

THE COURT: Stop for a second and finish up
16 with the Jackson comment and then conclude with what
17 you were just about to say.

18 MR. SOROSKY: Well, this will lead to
19 Jackson.

20 THE COURT: Why don't you get to the Jackson.

21 MR. SOROSKY: Okay.

22 If you look at the Jackson comment, what we
23 may have with Jackson, accepting that there's guilt
24 here, is something in the nature of an included
25 :54PM offense, if I could use that phrase, by saying "in

1 the nature of" for want of a better term.
2 Mr. Blagojevich wanted donations. He knew that
3 Jackson wanted the Senate seat. And maybe
4 Mr. Blagojevich is only guilty of using Jackson's
5 request to be appointed to the Senate seat and
6 desired to be appointed to the Senate seat, coupled
7 with this offer, oh, we'll raise \$1,500,000 in
8 campaign contributions, tell his brother, call him
9 up, see if they'll give you a contribution. I think
10 the words were, and I am reading from a transcript
11 of the tape, I think it's something like this:

12 "If, in fact, this is possible" "this" being the
13 appointment of Jackson "then some of this stuff
14 has to start happening now."

15 I think later on, a few sentences later:
16 "If there is tangible political support like you
17 said, start showing it."

18 And this is why I use the phrase "something
19 in the nature of an included offense" in that
20 accepting the fact that the jury found and that Your
21 Honor believes that Blagojevich was seeking some
22 type of political contribution from the Jackson
23 supporters by these statements and those were the
24 two damning statements, he's asking for a
25 contribution here. And that's wrong and he's

:55PM

:55PM

:55PM

:56PM

:56PM

1 guilty, but I don't know that that's anywhere near
2 selling a Senate seat for \$1,500,000. And once
3 again, this does not call for a jail sentence of
4 15 years in jail.

:57PM

5 When my colleagues have spoken in the past
6 and Your Honor has commented about general
7 deterrence, the examples of all these other corrupt
8 officials were so more egregious than the crimes we
9 have here, that we have to begin with what
10 Mr. Blagojevich was convicted of. And with all due
11 respect, and I don't mean to be out of line when I
12 say this, these are rather minimal, minimally wrong,
13 they're not right, but they're minimally wrong
14 compared to the outrageous conduct that was shown in
15 these other cases. That's all I have to say.

:57PM

16 THE COURT: Ten minutes.

:58PM

17 THE CLERK: All rise.

18 (Recess.)

19 THE CLERK: All rise.

:16PM

20 THE COURT: Please be seated.

21 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Judge. Thank you
22 for your indulgence. And once again I was wrong,
23 Mr. Sorosky went a little longer than anticipated
24 and I take full responsibility for that.

:16PM

25 Mr. Sorosky, and you've heard the trial and

:17PM
1 you've heard the summations here, talked about the
2 facts of the case. I say it again, we're not here
3 to re-try this case before Your Honor. I would like
4 to for Your Honor play a couple of excerpts of
5 calls, and there's two excerpts I want to play for
6 you to begin with.

:17PM
7 The first excerpt is a series of calls that
8 we basically put together. These were all calls
9 that were admitted at trial. And again, what we're
10 trying to show and at least it'll shed some light is
11 that individuals that Mr. Blagojevich was speaking
12 to, were at the very least not objecting, it's not
13 encouraging, it's not cheering on what it was he was
14 doing. It does not absolve him of these crimes, we
15 understand that. It sheds light and puts a certain
16 amount of perspective on it.

:18PM
17 So I'd like to play for Your Honor, if you
18 would allow, tab 2 in the binder that we provided to
19 Your Honor.

:18PM
20 Thank you.

21 (Tape played)

22 (Brief pause).

23 MR. GOLDSTEIN: These series of calls
24 demonstrate what was going in Mr. Blagojevich's
25 head. And, again, they don't absolve him of the

:21PM
1 conduct that he was convicted of, but if you listen
2 to these tapes, it is repeated over and over and
3 over again, for whatever reason, whether it's they
4 don't want to talk to him anymore, they just want to
5 agree with him, whatever it is, from
6 Mr. Blagojevich's perspective it's every single
7 person cheering this on.

:21PM
8 And I'll speak generally, Mr. Blagojevich
9 made one comment in the call talking about Rahm
10 Emanuel wants Valerie Jarrett:

11 "It looks like, huh?"

12 Someone who is talking to him says:

13 "The more interested he is, the better it is
14 for you, do you know what I mean?"

:21PM
15 Mr. Blagojevich:

16 "Yeah."

17 This person then says:

18 "Well, see what you can get from him, see how
19 interested he is. So I think, you know, Health
20 and Human Services is really the one for you to
21 want, you know."

22 Blagojevich says:

23 "Yeah."

24 The speaker says:

25 "That is the position and I think --"

1 Mr. Blagojevich says:
2 "They think I want --"
3 And then the speaker says:
4 "It's a legitimate ask."
5 So Blagojevich asks again:
6 "What's that?"
7 "I said I think it's a totally legitimate ask."

8 Not to confuse, Your Honor, I'm putting
9 together some various calls.

:22PM
10 One individual that was speaking to
11 Mr. Blagojevich called the Senate seat a gift.
12 Again assigning a value to it, assigning weight and
13 somehow like it's something to be handled in the
14 personal context.

:22PM
15 when Mr. Blagojevich says:
16 "That be good, and we should think about what we
17 could get for that."

18 The person that he's talking to says:
19 "I think so."

20 "And he can help is, right?"

21 And that person says:
22 "I think --" talking about the individual that
23 they're talking about helping him "... he's
24 somebody who would be willing to say to the
25 president-elect this works for the Governor and

1 you ought to do it."

2 Mr. Blagojevich has another call with a
3 different individual:

4 "So anybody want to argue why I should appoint
5 Valerie Jarrett when it's an exchange for
6 nothing."

7 The person that is speaking to Mr. Blagojevich
8 says:

9 "I'm not gonna argue that, I would argue
10 appointing Valerie Jarrett you get something
11 that is helpful to you."

12 Mr. Blagojevich says:

13 "They're not giving me anything."

14 This individual says:

15 "Well know, they're trying to set the stage for
16 negotiations and to invite and negotiations for
17 something they figure they can do. Right now
18 if you ask for 10, they're offering zero, so
19 they want you to come back with 8 so they can
20 offer 2."

21 Mr. Blagojevich says:

22 "Right."

23 They're talking about the 501(c)(4)

24 Mr. Blagojevich says:

25 "How about like \$10 million to a 501(c)(4),

1 organization that supporters of mine control,
2 dedicated to providing healthcare to children
3 and working families across America?"

4 The person he's speaking to says:

5 "That sounds like a reasonable plan."

6 Mr. Blagojevich says:

7 "Yeah, yeah, give some thought to that."

8 The person responds:

9 "That sounds like something, that sounds like
10 something that is especially, you know, that
11 you could be the executive director of, that
12 sounds very reasonable."

13 This was the conversation that

14 Mr. Blagojevich had over and over and over again
15 with various, various people, intelligent people,
16 reasonable people, all treated, in particular the
17 Senate seat, in a selfish manner and that was the
18 environment he was talking on the phone with
19 throughout the period of conversations. That is
20 mitigating, Your Honor.

21 Another series of calls, and again I'll be
22 brief, and that is on tab 3, and that has to do with
23 this Madigan appointment. And this has been
24 relitigated. Your Honor, knows full and well,
25 again, I really stress to you my desires not to

:24PM

:24PM

:24PM

:24PM

:25PM

:25PM
1 re-try this case. I want to shed light for Your
2 Honor exactly what was going on during that entire
3 period. This was a period of about a month and a
4 half of recordings, and the government has presented
5 many recordings for the jury and for Your Honor to
6 hear that certainly don't put him in the best light,
7 and certainly indicate, at the very least,
8 selfishness.

:25PM
9 What is significant about the Madigan
10 appointment for Your Honor in sentencing is, in many
11 ways, the unselfishness of it, and the desire to do
12 good things for the People of the State of Illinois.
13 And I think what is important to know during that
14 time, that time period which he, in essence, is
15 being convicted of, there were many, many, many
16 moments where he was truly, truly trying to do what
17 was best for the People of the State of Illinois,
18 and that's tab 3.

:29PM
19 (Tape played).

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, these were two
21 calls that we just put together and it's just
22 Mr. Blagojevich speaking. And as you look at the
23 dates of the tab 3, they are somewhat early in the
24 process and somewhat later in the process. This was
25 something that was consistently on his mind and

1 shows another side to him, another side that I hope
2 we have been able to show to you.

3 Standing before you Mr. Blagojevich is
4 convicted, and that is a side of him, and the
5 government suggests that that is his character, a
6 criminal character. I can tell you, that isn't.
7 That is a side of him, but there are sides to him
8 that are not criminal, that are good and that are
9 decent.

:29PM 10 Your Honor heard about the All kids program,
11 I'm not going to belabor the point. The main issue
12 on All Kids is not whether there was good policy or
13 bad policy, it was that it came from a true deep
14 belief in doing good things for people.

:30PM 15 Your Honor has the submission and we've, in
16 essence, laundry list a lot of the things that
17 Mr. Blagojevich did as Governor. This is not meant
18 to be a campaign speech. We're not trying to get
19 Mr. Blagojevich reelected. But there is a theme to
20 what Mr. Blagojevich did as Governor and as a
21 politician in a lot of his initiatives, the theme
22 was that he cared about people. It really was, and
23 I've had many conversations with him. It wasn't
24 liberal or conservative or some economic viewpoint,
25 it was a very basic concept, can I help people. I

1 see that kids are underinsured, what can I do about
2 it. It was a very basic level of kindness and
3 goodness that led him to do the policies like All
4 Kids.

:31PM

5 As far as some of the initiatives to allow
6 for cancer screenings and some of the expansion of
7 healthcare. Mr. Blagojevich and his administration
8 was sued for a lot of these initiatives, that again
9 really harmed his administration and harmed him
10 politically. He did it truly because he thought it
11 was the right thing to do to help people.

:31PM

12 And the government, I'm sure will argue, and
13 has raised to Your Honor in its submissions,
14 rightfully, that corruption breeds cynicism in the
15 general public. They're 100 percent correct, it is
16 a problem, it does breed cynicism. What I submit to
17 Your Honor, though, is that the citizenry also gets
18 cynical--say that 10 times--they get cynical when
19 the politicians don't do what's good for the people.
20 And some of that is for corrupt reasons, but some of
21 it is just not doing what's right for people.

:32PM

22 People get cynical because they see, man, I could've
23 been helped with this, where was the government when
24 this tragedy happened. One example is Hurricane
25 Katrina, a lot of those citizens are cynical of

:32PM

1 government, not necessarily of any corrupt things
2 that occurred, but they weren't helped, they weren't
3 assisted, and it means something.

4 And what I'd like to show you just one
5 example, and Your Honor has all the letters, and we
6 videotaped a few people, and I would just like to
7 show you a short snippet of one individual and this
8 is an individual who felt so happy that this rides
9 for seniors was passed. Just look how she is, how
10 appreciative she is just by that one simple policy.
:32PM

11 (videotape played.)
:33PM

12 MR. GOLDSTEIN: This is one person, but that
13 one policy that came from the heart affected this
14 one person, and that has impact, and that's a
15 policy--good, bad or otherwise--that impacted a
16 citizen. That person is not cynical because of the
17 good substantive policy. So if it's healthcare, or
18 taxes, or free rides for seniors, education,
19 whatever it is, these policies came from the heart
20 of Mr. Blagojevich. They show another side of the
21 man.
:35PM

22 And again, Your Honor, thank you for
23 indulging us this day and I apologize that, once
24 again, we've gone a little too long. But I want to
25 give you just a personal story to really show Rod.
:36PM

:36PM
1 As you know I've been on this case for quite
2 sometime, it's been about 2 and a half years, and
3 they say as lawyers we're not supposed to be
4 affiliated with the client, we're supposed to just
5 keep a distance. And it's good in principle and I
6 think it's the right value and the right ethical
7 standard to have. It's practically impossible in a
8 case like this.

:36PM
9 For two and a half years I spent so much time
10 with Mr. Blagojevich, to the detriment of seeing my
11 family. On May 11th, 2010, my world was turned
12 upside down. My father passed away, completely
13 unexpectedly. And this is, as you know, June 3rd,
14 2010, is when the first trial was to begin. I
15 dedicated my entire practice, my entire life to this
16 case and my world was turned upside down when that
17 happened.

:37PM
18 That day Mr. Blagojevich gave me a call and
19 we spoke. It wasn't about what was going on with
20 the case, it wasn't, hey, you going to be there with
21 a case. It was a friend being a friend. It came
22 from the heart, I know it. That Friday was the
23 funeral and Mr. Blagojevich came to the funeral.
24 There is no press, didn't go shaking hands, he just
25 came to be a friend. And on a side note, I want you

1 know, I want you to know Your Honor, the government
2 attorneys they said some very nice things to me as
3 well. And it means a lot. I apologize for getting
4 a little emotional. what I wanted to communicate to
5 you, Judge, is this is another side of this man. He
6 didn't try to do anything about the case. It was
7 about being a friend. As bad luck would have it, a
8 very similar thing happened to my co-counsel,
9 Ms. Kaeseberg, as you know, and this was in the
10 middle of the trial that her mother passed away.
11 Mr. Blagojevich was there, went to the funeral,
12 called her every single day, and that's the subject
13 of one of the letters that was written to Your
14 Honor, and I just want to quote from it briefly:

15 "Three months before the first trial began
16 Lauren's mother, to whom Lauren was incredibly
17 close and an only child, was unexpectedly
18 diagnosed with stage IV untreatable cancer.
19 Lauren had been working on Mr. Blagojevich's
20 case for many months and at the time her mother
21 was diagnosed Lauren moved into our home in the
22 suburbs to help care for her. This was a
23 difficult decision for Lauren because it meant
24 risking her job. However, it became
25 immediately clear that Lauren had

1 Mr. Blagojevich's full support. A
2 Mr. Blagojevich's not only encouraged Lauren to
3 work from home in the months leading up to
4 trial, but he leant incredible emotion support
5 to our family at our most difficult time. Mr.
6 Blagojevich took the time to call my sister and
7 talk with her about her illness, about Lauren,
8 just offered his and Patti's support. These
9 phone calls came from such a place of kindness,
10 there was no self-interest on the part of Mr.
11 Blagojevich. I remember one call specifically
12 towards the end of Marsha's life when she had
13 the call on the speaker phone, Mr. Blagojevich
14 told her some wonderful things about Lauren's
15 work on the case which just filled Marsha with
16 overwhelming pride and happiness. But Mr.
17 Blagojevich also went on to tell Marsha that no
18 matter what happened, he promised her that he
19 and Patti would always be there for Lauren and
20 our family in whatever way they could help.
21 When Ms. Kaeseberg's mother passed away every
22 single evening that week on their way home from
23 court Mr. Blagojevich called Lauren to tell her
24 'everything is going okay, please don't worry
25 about it,' we miss you but you need to be with

:39PM

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1 your family right now.' This kindness, again
2 from a man fighting for his own life and family
3 on trial, was unmatched by anything I have ever
4 seen. It meant a great deal to Marsha, to
5 Lauren, and to me, and to the rest of the
6 family."

7 I give these stories to your Honor not for
8 sympathy for me, not for sympathy for Ms. Kaeseberg,
9 not even sympathy for Mr. Blagojevich, what I want
10 to do and I hope I am doing is give you another side
11 of this man, another side that is not a criminal,
12 that has good character.

13 Now, more than just being a friend, you heard
14 about Mr. Blagojevich and his family. And you know
15 the biographical information, you know his family
16 status. I just want to go over shortly some of the
17 connection that he has with his daughters. And
18 again, you make a very good point earlier in the
19 day, Judge, that in many ways he's not different
20 from a lot of people. There are many, many good
21 dads out there, loyal and dedicated to their
22 children. But it is important when we look at what
23 is a just punishment.

24 And I provided to Your Honor the defense
25 group exhibit number 1, which is a series of letters

:42PM
1 that Mr. Blagojevich wrote to his daughter Amy. And
2 it's just over time, some letters are after the
3 arrest but most of them are before he was arrested,
4 and I just want to read from a couple of them just
5 to sort of give you a flavor how close he is with
6 Amy. On October 26, 2005, Mr. Blagojevich wrote:

7 "Dear, Amy: Boy, oh boy, do I love you. How's
8 it going? Mommy tells me she heard from a
9 little birdie that you're doing well and having
10 a good time. I sure hope so."

11 Mr. Blagojevich went on to talk about
12 politics, of course, and he talked about All Kids:

13 "Well, that's it for now, keep your fingers
14 crossed. We hope to pass a law tomorrow to
15 help all the kids in Illinois be able to go to
16 the doctor if they have to."

17 In many ways, the All Kids program and these
18 initiatives really show where it comes from with
19 Mr. Blagojevich. It is a very basic and simple
20 thought. He sees his daughters, he has his life
21 experiences, and he see what can be good policies
22 for people.

23 The next day, October 27th, what would happen
24 is Amy would go away for like a class type thing for
25 about a week and Mr. Blagojevich would write to her

:43PM

:43PM

1 every single day, and he tells Amy:

2 "Tomorrow is Friday, which means tomorrow you
3 come back home. I can't wait. I can't wait to
4 see you. I can't wait to do stuff with you. I
5 can't wait for tomorrow."

6 In January of '06, Mr. and Mrs. Blagojevich
7 visited Amy's school and he was able to just write a
8 quick note, and Mr. Blagojevich said:

9 "Mommy and I are so grateful, we're the parents
10 of such a smart and sweet daughter. We're
11 really happy that you're doing so well in
12 school."

13 So the question is, it's been discussed a
14 little today, what value does it have that he has a
15 family that he cares for and would be devastated
16 without him? Although speculative, I think it's
17 pretty clear I think they will be devastated without
18 him. Does it matter at all? It has to be weighed
19 against the aggravating factors, and the government
20 will certainly present that soon. We understand
21 there's a balance that has to be struck. I suggest,
22 Your Honor, that balance is way, way, way below
23 where the government is.

24 Mr. Blagojevich's two daughters a day, let
25 alone a year, is an eternity; a day, let alone a

:44PM

:44PM

:44PM

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:45PM

1 year from their father is a lifetime. As one doctor
2 wrote in one of the letters to Your Honor:

3 "I also know how prison can affect families and
4 is not possible to unring a bell. If you can
5 think of Amy and Annie in your sentencing and
6 how it will affect them is important. In our
7 office, there is a sign that reads 'anything
8 you do for a child is never wasted.'"

9 :45PM Amy wrote a letter as well and talked a
10 little bit about the activities she shared with
11 Mr. Blagojevich, and she says:

12 :46PM "For the past 3 years my world has been spinning
13 out of control, but what has made it somewhat
14 bearable is my father being home almost all the
15 time. He's been here to help me with my
16 homework, history and writing mostly, and he's
17 been here to teach me life lessons."

18 She goes on to explain how important her dad
19 is to her:

20 :46PM "As much as I have gone through already, I will
21 not be able to handle my father not being
22 around. It's too drastic a change. I need my
23 father. I need him here for my high school
24 graduation, I need him if I do not get into
25 college, I've wanted to go to Northwestern

1 since the sixth grade. I'll need him if I do
2 get in. I'll need him when my heart gets
3 broken. I'll need him when my dog Skittles who
4 my parents bought for us after the arrest and
5 who I love dies. I need my father in my life."

6 Despite Mr. Blagojevich's actions, that he
7 alone is responsible for, we humbly request, Your
8 Honor, to take into account the side of
9 Mr. Blagojevich that is a loving, caring, and
10 dedicated father and husband. Take into account the
11 impact his absence will have on such a tight-knit
12 family. He doesn't deserve mercy because he has a
13 family, what I submit to Your Honor is his family
14 deserves mercy. They are not the ones that have to
15 be responsible for these crimes. And when a
16 sentence is handed down it affects everyone, it has
17 ripple effects. Bad for the defendant's family, we
18 know that and Your Honor knows that. The goal here
19 is to limit these ripple effects while satisfying
20 all the factors Your Honor takes into consideration.

21 Now, again, much has been said amongst a lot
22 of these submissions and writings that defense is
23 re-trying the case, we're trying to do that, we're
24 trying to play tapes. I want to apologize to Your
25 Honor if in any way we are trying -- it appears even

:46PM

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:48PM

1 that we're trying to do that, and that's my fault.
2 Please don't hold it against Mr. Blagojevich if in
3 any way it looks like we're trying to say the jury
4 is wrong. The jury made findings, we respect those
5 findings, we accept those findings.

6 There's one final call I'd like to play for
7 you, and I think it's important to play just again
8 for you to get the flavor. You can read the
9 transcript, but the words just don't come to life.
10 It's just a small snippet of a short interaction on
11 the phone between Mr. Blagojevich and his family,
12 and that's tab 1.

13 (Tape played).

14 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Certainly not suggesting,
15 Your Honor, he should stay home because he's good at
16 cleaning the dishes. This call, very simple call,
17 that does show in real life terms the bond that is
18 between Mr. Blagojevich and his family. I just hope
19 that we shed light on this relationship and shed
20 light on the man.

21 I'll leave you with this, Your Honor:
22 Mrs. Blagojevich wrote you a letter as well, and she
23 ended with this:

24 "... but the punishment that he fears the most,
25 the one that is most devastating is that he

:48PM

:49PM

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:51PM
1 would not be able to see his daughters grow up,
2 that he would not be here to support his
3 daughters, to protect them from and help them
4 through what is proved to be a very cruel
5 world. Your Honor, I ask you humbly with the
6 life of my husband and the childhood of my
7 daughters in your hands, please be merciful."

:52PM
8 I echo that sentiment, Your Honor, be
9 merciful, you can satisfy all the factors,
10 deterrence, just punishment, no unfair disparities
11 by giving this man a much, much lower sentence and
12 the lowest sentence that the law allows. You will
13 satisfy all those factors and you will create as few
14 ripples that have been caused by Mr. Blagojevich,
15 you will prevent that from happening, and I thank
16 you, Judge.

17 THE COURT: I have a couple of questions.

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Sure.

:52PM
19 THE COURT: There's a line in one of the
20 pleadings you filed comparing the Governor to other
21 defendants and asserting that he did not plead
22 guilty and cooperate, it's a statement you made. My
23 question to you is, was there any earthly thing on
24 which the governor could cooperate?

25 MR. GOLDSTEIN: It's an excellent question,

1 Your Honor, and I think the government might be able
2 to respond to this better. As I understand it, I
3 don't think there was anything he could cooperate
4 on. You're speaking post-arrest?

:53PM

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Post-arrest and I believe
7 that's --

8 THE COURT: Your answer is basically you do
9 not know of one.

:53PM

10 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I do not know of one, I don't
11 believe so.

12 THE COURT: That's what I'm asking you, and
13 that's fine.

:53PM

14 The second thing is is several letters have
15 been cited. I'm curious as to what your position is
16 with respect to the letter behind tab 3 signed by
17 his brother.

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Anything specifically or --

19 THE COURT: Well, this is a fairly --

:54PM

20 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I think I know what you're
21 talking about. It might be best if we went to
22 sidebar if Your Honor allows.

:54PM

23 THE COURT: Well, I can put it in a different
24 way: whether there's any problem or conflict with
25 respect to the first, second, and fifth paragraphs?

1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I can say, Your Honor, I -- I
2 understand what Robert is saying and I think it does
3 explain a lot to Your Honor. It doesn't excuse the
4 conduct, we're not suggesting that in any way, but I
5 think it explains it.

6 THE COURT: That's fine. You answered the
7 question. Thank you.

8 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Judge.

9 THE COURT: The government can stand, I just
10 want to ask what your plans are, because we're not
11 going to continue to do it today.

12 MR. SCHAR: Judge, I have comments, we don't
13 have any witnesses. I don't expect to be
14 particularly long, but we're happy to go tomorrow.

15 THE COURT: And how long do you think?

16 MR. SCHAR: Probably if there are questions,
17 probably in the neighborhood of 20 minutes, I would
18 say.

19 THE COURT: There might be questions.

20 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

21 THE CLERK: All rise.

22 (Adjournment taken from 4:55 o'clock p.m. to
23 10:00 o'clock a.m. on December 7, 2011.)

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5 I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT TRANSCRIPT
6 FROM THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED
7 MATTER

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10 /s/Blanca I. Lara

date

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Date

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